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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest, what's your level of confidence that rebates and refunds will be issued before the year ends?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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The first troops to leave Afghanistan have started packing for home.

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Indian police look for the culprits behind the triple bombing in Mumbai.

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Did Harry Potter change the world? His fans say, "Yes!"

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Assault victim identifies suspect through Facebook. PAGE 17

'PL 110-229 asks US citizens to choose between country and family'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aside from the uncertainty and economic problems caused by the implementation of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, Public Law 110-229 is also causing U.S. citizens to choose between their country and family, according to CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

In his opening statement early this morning to the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs in Washington, D.C., Sablan said a good example of how the CNRA will separate families will be offered by one of the witnesses at the public hearing, Hazel Doctor.

He said that Doctor is a citizen of the

See **PL 110-229** on **Page 4**

'Unacceptable limbo situation'

LAST DAY

MARK RABAGO

Retiring Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), second from left, is all smiles following his last day at the Legislature yesterday. Posing with him are, from left, Ramon Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Sen. Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), Tony Sablan (Cov-Saipan), House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), and former speaker and now Public Lands Secretary Oscar Babauta. Former congresswoman Janet Maratita will possibly replace Benavente, who resigned on June 30 after serving the Legislature for more than 15 years. The Fitial administration said it will wait for Benavente's resignation to take effect today, July 15, before appointing Maratita, if she is available and interested in serving the House minority leader's remaining term.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In his written testimony, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial excoriated the failed promises of the law that federalized the Commonwealth during a public hearing held early this morning in Washington, D.C.

Fitial

Saipan Tribune obtained yesterday a copy of the governor's testimony where he said "the uncertainty created by [the Consolidated Natural Resources Act] has created an unacceptable limbo situation that has severely hampered new investment and has created morale problems throughout

See **LIMBO** on **Page 4**

Ma-On now a typhoon

Tropical Storm Ma-On intensified into a typhoon yesterday and passed through Agrihan in the Northern Islands last night at 7pm, packing maximum sustained winds of 105 miles per hour.

According to the Emergency Man-

See **MA-ON** on **Page 4**

$2.26M to tap geothermal, help economy

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A day after the CNMI received bad news that its economy shrunk by an average of 16 percent in 2008 and 2009, the Office of Insular Affairs yesterday gave the islands an early Christmas gift in the form of a $2.26 million grant to develop geothermal energy and bring its fading economy back to life.

Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta and acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed yesterday two documents: the first one giving the islands $1.26 million to explore the potential of geothermal energy; and the second, a $1 million grant to, among other things, resuscitate the ailing economy.

"This grant will allow us to do a more detailed assessment and possibly some initial exploration to go ahead and prove that [geothermal] resource is available and hopefully we can calculate in what quantities so we can invite interested private firms and come in do production," said Inos.

See **$2.26M** on **Page 4**

Local

72-hour work schedule reinstated at Saipan municipality

» 'Mayor Flores requests status quo funding for FY 2012'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Many government employees may be working just 64 hours every two weeks due to austerity measures but employees of the Saipan municipality have been on a 72-hour work schedule since April, largely due to lapsed funds that are being used to cover personnel costs.

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores said he decided to reinstate the72-hour work schedule, effective April 1, 2011, after re-evaluating the municipality's finances for the entire fiscal year.

Flores said that his fiscal and budget officer, Teri Camacho, discovered the lapsed funds and the municipality decided to use the money to cover its personnel's salary, in addition to potential savings from internal cost-cutting measures in the municipality's operation.

The mayor's office currently has 38 employees. Flores claims that this is much lower compared to his predecessor, Juan Tudela, who had 64.

To reinstate the 72-hour work schedule, Flores said his office did not fill six positions under the approved 44 FTEs for fiscal year 2011.

He said personnel overtime was also eliminated, while a conservation plan is being strictly enforced for both utilities and supplies.

The Saipan municipality was budgeted for $875,000 for personnel cost and $125,000 for "all others" at the start of the fiscal year in October 2010. On April 1, the budget was cut by 7.5 percent—or a reduction of about $90,000.

Despite the budget cut, Flores said they managed to reinstate the 72-hour work schedule for their employees by cutting other areas in their operation and identifying lapsed funds.

Majority of government employees have been subjected to 20 percent salary cuts since the beginning of this fiscal year due to declining revenues and collection. The cuts are being made through "austerity Fridays," when government offices shut down non-essential operations every other Friday.

'Status quo funding'

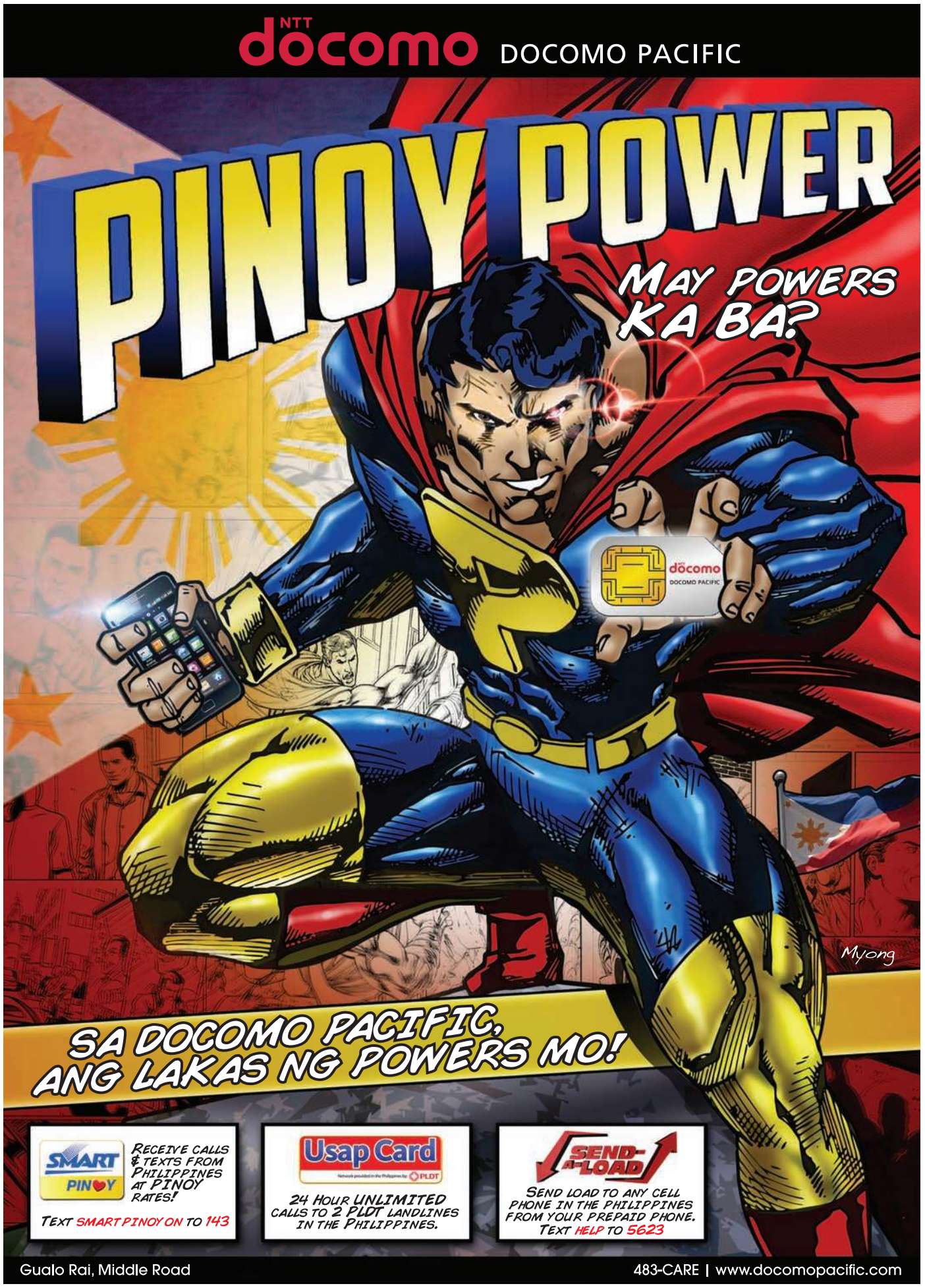
Flores said he has already appealed to the Executive Branch and the Legislature to spare the municipality from further cuts in the next fiscal year and for it to retain its current budget of over $900,000 for the 12-month period. That amount, he said, is enough for the municipality to retain its programs and services.

He and Camacho expect no funding shortfall for the municipality until end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30.

Florez disclosed that under the proposed budget for 2012, his office may only get about $700,000 for personnel and operation. If that happens, Flores said he would need to suspend some community programs. He said his office cannot afford to reduce its already small workforce at this time.

"With the proposed budget, it would mean lesser attention to community concerns," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

According to Flores, agencies that do not directly involve community service should bear the brunt of any further cuts, not the mayor's office.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College projects decline in enrollment for fall

» Many NMC students request release of transcripts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart disclosed yesterday that the institution may see a decline in enrollment this fall after its enrollment specialists reported that many current and ongoing students have asked for the release of their transcripts to off-island universities and colleges.

Because of this, Hart wants to call for an "emergency-type meeting" with the college recruitment team to boost efforts to get more enrollees.

NMC enrollment will begin on Aug. 15. Classes will start on Aug. 22.

Student Services dean Leo Pangelinan declined to reveal the total number of transcripts that have been released so far, but conceded that this is a clear indication that these students will not stay with the college next semester.

Pangelinan also refused to provide any percentage in the projected decline, citing the difficulty of making projections.

To guide the college in making such projections, Hart said she will include the creation of a student management system services among her leadership priorities next year.

Board member William Torres said the anticipated decline in enrollment numbers conflicts with the claim of Faculty Senate president John Griffin, who expects a shortfall in the number of instructors. He said real numbers should be looked at before any decision is made to hire more instructors.

Hart also reported to the Board of Regents that the management intends to push through with the planned 10-percent cut in employees' salaries on July 22, depending on how fast the proposed amendments to the policy will be processed and approved.

She described many of the existing board policy as "conflicting" and asked the board to focus on correcting those deficient policies.

According to chief financial and administrative officer Roger Madriaga, NMC may realize some surplus of about $32,000 if the proposed 10-percent salary cut is implemented next Friday.

Employees funded by federal programs will be exempted from the austerity Fridays.

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PL 110-229

From Page 1

U.S. who has been "whipsawed" by this law.

Doctor, the daughter of contract workers from the Philippines, was born in the CNMI and has lived here all her life.

Sablan said that Doctor's parents have lived in the Commonwealth for over 20 years. However, P.L. 110-229 will require them to leave, he said, a requirement that Congress did not take into account for U.S. citizens like Doctor.

"They will have to choose between staying in the only home they have ever known or leaving with their parents to live in a place they have never known. Let me say that again because it is important: Public Law 110-229 is asking U.S. citizens to choose between their country and their families. That's wrong," he said.

Sablan contends that H.R. 1466 would fix the problem, keep families together, and keep "Americans in America."

He then emphasized several points, knowing that H.R. 1466 will be criticized and because immigration is a "hot-button" issue.

First, Sablan said, individuals covered in H.R. 1466 are not immigrants. "They did not cross over the U.S. immigration border. Rather Public Law 110-229 extended the border over them. So they are not and should not be part of the national immigration debate."

Second, he said his bill has nothing to do with amnesty because amnesty is for illegals.

"H.R. 1466 covers people who were legally admitted under the laws of the Northern Mariana Islands. To qualify under H.R. 1466 individuals must still be in lawful status and in full compliance with the standards of the Immigration and Nationality Act."

Third, Sablan said his bill provides no new social benefits and adds no new societal costs. In fact, by stabilizing the population and the workforce, he said H.R. 1466 will have a positive economic effect.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona supported Sablan's bill in a written testimony to the subcommittee early this morning, albeit seeking some amendments.

Manglona said H.R. 1466 should incorporate the CNMI Senate's recommendations that called for aliens residing illegally in the Commonwealth for 10 years on the date the CNRA was implemented to be given status similar to citizens of Freely Associated States.

He also wants to require parents of U.S. citizens that will be extended status by H.R. 1466 to have lived in the CNMI at least five years prior to May 8, 2008, before they could receive "CNMI-only" status.

Opposition

In his testimony to the subcommittee, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he opposes the bill because it was drafted by persons without any expertise in immigration law or understanding of the Commonwealth's economy.

He said H.R. 1466, and other bills dealing with immigration in the insular areas should be handled by the appropriate subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee.

Fitial is also against Sablan's bill because it is being offered without the information necessary to assess its impact on the Commonwealth.

"Some may assume the effect would also be minor. That is wrong… We now estimate that there were approximately 23,000 aliens (including illegals) residing in the Commonwealth at the end of 2008. Unlike our U.S. citizen population, most of these aliens are adults. Most of these aliens, but perhaps not all, were present in the CNMI on May 8, 2008, the date of enactment of the federalization law, and therefore would meet one of the requirements of H.R. 1466 to gain the bill's preferred status for parents of U.S. citizen children," he said.

Fitial also reiterated that when the Commonwealth controlled its own immigration, it only admitted alien workers on a temporary basis while they remained employed, and unemployed aliens were repatriated. He said the CNRA and the false promise of improved status changed all that.

"When the garment manufacturers closed down because of changes in WTO [World Trade Organization] rules, the Commonwealth repatriated over 16,000 alien workers beginning in 2005. After the federalization law was enacted in 2008, some federal officials promised a path to U.S. citizenship for aliens who had U.S. citizen children or who had lived in the Commonwealth for several years. This gave aliens a strong incentive to stay in the CNMI rather than return home," he said.

The CNMI House of Representatives yesterday tried to forge a last-minute resolution opposing H.R. 1466 but Rep. Ray Basa's H.R. 17-56 was tabled off to another day following an emotional debate that was mostly against the resolution.

He said the bill will be unfair to long-term foreign workers, including those who have legally been in the CNMI for over 20 years, for example, and do not have U.S. citizen children.

Sablan's H.R. 1466 proposes a "CNMI-only resident status" for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as of May 8, 2008, and continuing to be on the islands, CNMI permanent residents, those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978, and the spouses or children, "as defined in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)), of an alien described in subclauses (I) or (II)."

MA-ON

From Page 1

agement Office, Typhoon Ma-On was moving west at 12 mph and is expected to continue moving near this speed with a slight turn toward the west-northwest in the next 24 hours.

Maximum sustained winds remain at 105 mph. Typhoon force winds extend outward up to 45 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 175 miles from the center. Typhoon Ma-On is expected to resume intensifying in the next 12 hours.

The eye of Typhoon Ma-On was expected to pass about 130 miles north of Pagan between 4pm and 6pm yesterday, according to the National Weather Service in Guam.

NWS advised residents of Pagan, Alamagan, and Agrihan to complete preparations for damaging winds before these arrive early afternoon yesterday.

"Tie down or bring indoors loose outside objects that may be blown around and make sure any watercraft are secured," NWS said.

Small craft, NWS said, should remain in port, while people are advised not to attempt inter-island travel until winds and seas subside.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos urged the public, especially those in the Northern Islands, to closely follow the progress and evolution of Typhoon Ma-On through the Emergency Management Office and local media.

From 75mph at 2am yesterday, Ma-On's maximum sustained winds increased to 90mph at 7am, then to 105mph at 1pm.

By 7pm, the center of typhoon was 95 miles north of Agrihan, 145 miles north of Pagan, 175 miles north of Alamagan, and 350 miles north of Saipan.

NWS said strong west to southwest winds will produce dangerous surf of 12 to 16 feet yesterday afternoon and Friday on southern and western exposures in the northern islands.

Heavy rainfall of 4 to 8 inches is likely through Friday night, and wind may cause damage to buildings and trees, while flooding in low-lying areas in the Northern Islands are expected, NWS said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

$2.26M

From Page 1

Hotspots

He said that based on a study made by OIA's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, four sites on Saipan have the potential for geothermal resources.

"We've got some areas that have been identified up in Gualo Rai. They are trying to follow the fault that comes from the Northern Islands and go all the way down to Saipan. Those findings were backed several years ago when CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] was doing some test drills and they encountered an elevated water temperature in those areas so that suggests there might be some geothermal activity up there," the acting governor said.

A summary of the NREL report on the CNMI termed as "high" the possibility that a geothermal resource can be found on the islands. It specifically mentioned two water wells drilled in Garapan that Inos alluded to earlier.

"Two water wells drilled in the Gualo Rai area of western Saipan encountered elevated temperatures above what would be expected in the groundwater aquifer. The hotter of the two wells was anecdotally reported to have temperatures 'too hot to touch.'…Anomalous temperatures were also encountered in a nearby well… Elevated temperatures in these two wells…provide potential evidence that hydrothermal systems may be present in the volcanic basement rock underlying the carbonate aquifer blanketing Saipan," the report states.

Inos said that part of the $1.26 million OIA gave the CNMI will be used to drill potential geothermal sites there.

"This money will be available and we're going to bring in drillers and explorers with the proper equipment and start drilling and see what's down there and confirm the availability of geothermal resources," he said.

Babauta, for his part, said he is happy that OIA was able to follow through with its promise to help the CNMI explore renewable energy sources.

He, however, said that tapping into renewable energy sources should not be an end-all in the country's quest to become greener and more energy efficient.

"There nothing surprising that there is verifiable date on the geothermal front. Wind is a possibility, solar is a possibility. The earliest wins when you try and implement a renewable energy plan are really going to be educating the community—getting some successes in energy efficiencies. Changing lights, getting energy efficient appliances. Its little things that government, businesses, and homes can do to reduce the rate of consumption," he said.

When asked if the NREL report prescribed a specific renewable energy source the Commonwealth is best suited for, Babauta said there's never a "silver bullet" solution. "It's always a combination of different technologies that makes sense," he said.

The OIA official added that it's still up to the CNMI Energy Task Force to make a strategic development plan.

"Ideally you would want to have goal. Let's say for example we want to reduce our energy consumption of fossil fuel by 20 percent by 2025. Once you have that goal set and that vision…we are committed to working with the local government and the community and all the stakeholders as well as NREL to help along in the process," he said.

$1M for business

Inos said part of the $1 million grant will be used to hire an economist that will help the CNMI get out of its economic doldrums, which has been battered by the demise of the garment industry and reeling from slow tourism numbers.

"It's really timely. The other day we received a report on the sad state of our economy here…so this would be the first step in trying to turns things around and not make it go further south," he said. "With that grant we will hire an economist that will come here and help us develop a development plan,"

The acting governor said the economist will help industries identified in last year's labor and economic forum that the CNMI should focus on—agriculture, tourism, and education.

Babauta said the $1 million grant is a good start in the revitalization of the CNMI and he sees agriculture as a potential industry that could thrive.

"There's a large potential for agriculture and the benefit of it is it keeps all of that money. It keeps jobs in the community and it keeps the money within the community circulating. I think there needs more collaboration within the region, specifically in the Marianas. Specially when you have Guam where there's great need there that can be filled. There are less farmers in Guam right now than there are in the CNMI," he said.

LIMBO

From Page 1

our community."

Specifically, Fitial scored Congress for its failure to grant visa waivers, failure to deport illegal aliens, failure to monitor the exit of tourists, and failure to provide the CNMI with useful reports.

Speaking before the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, Fitial said businesses have already lost their investments and others are expected to close if promises made when the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control is not fully implemented.

"It is time for the subcommittee to consider the overall implementation of PL 110-229 and its impact on the 30,000 United States citizens living in the Commonwealth. Based on what we have experienced over the past three years, this law is being implemented to reshape—and substantially hurt—the Commonwealth's economy and community."

In particular, Fitial said the implementation of the CNRA operates to reduce the political authority of the Commonwealth's local government in ways that would not be tolerated in the counties and states on the mainland.

"By doing so, it harms the indigenous elements in the CNMI population—namely, the Chamorro and Carolinian people—who gave up their land and sovereignty in return for U.S. citizenship and the opportunity to enjoy the political freedoms and economic opportunities available to all U.S. citizens," he said.

Fitial said the CNMI has no objection to federal control of immigration if it is done efficiently and effectively as Congress had intended.

"What has happened instead is that Title 7 of Public Law 110-229 has brought to the Commonwealth all of the very serious immigration problems that exist on the mainland. We have many illegal aliens who are not being deported—although one of the clearly stated goals of the federalization law was to reduce alien workers who could not obtain a standard federal visa to zero within a few years," he said.

Some of these "illegal aliens," Fitial contend, are employed illegally and take jobs away from U.S. citizens. Others, he added, are unemployed and survive on government benefits that provide an incentive not to leave the Commonwealth.

"Particularly since federal authority came into effect, the Commonwealth has had an increased inflow of tourists and others who entered on a temporary basis but remain illegally in the CNMI, hoping for access to amnesty that will provide a green card. The burden on CNMI taxpayers related to illegal and unemployed aliens is heavy," he said.

Fitial argued that the Commonwealth, with only 30,000 U.S. citizens—about 16,000 of them registered voters—is enormously burdened by these failures, which have complicated the islands' efforts to address its continued economic decline.

'Parole helped me become a productive member of society'

A parolee testified yesterday how the Board of Parole helped him become a better person and a productive member of society.

"They [Board of Parole] help us when we fall, and they want to see us succeed," Pasqual Deleon Guerrero said in a client testimony at the proclamation signing for the 11th Annual Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week held in the CNMI Supreme Court.

Deleon Guerrero said the parole granted him in October 2009 gave him a second chance.

"In prison, I saw everything taken away from me and I saw what was most important to me in my life," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he wants to change for the better and it was the Board of Parole that gave him that chance.

He remembered a Board of Parole member telling him to prove it to himself and do it for himself as they see some good in him.

"I have stumbled, I have fallen, at times I veer off the path but Parole has been there to pick me up and set me on the right path," Deleon Guerrero said.

He said it was Parole that pushed him to attend classes, find a job, and keep that job.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos and Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan jointly signed the proclamation declaring July 17 to 23 as Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week. Both expressed their appreciation to probation and parole officers for their contributions.

They acknowledged the contributions of probation and parole officers in making the community a safer place, making offenders accountable, and restoring victims' rights. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Initiative endorses abolition of Saipan mayor's office

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A legislative initiative endorsing the abolition of the Saipan Mayor's Office was prefiled yesterday at the House of Representatives by Rep. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero, who believes it is not practical to continue the agency's operation in a place where the central government and its Legislature are located.

House Legislative Initiative 17-6 seeks to amend Article 6 of the CNMI Constitution to abolish the Mayor of Saipan.

In the bill's findings, it stated that unlike Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands, the CNMI government's central administration is based on Saipan, the capital of the Commonwealth. Deleon Guerrero's initiative intends to keep the operation of those three other municipalities.

He said it is more practical for the functions of the Mayor of Saipan Office to be administered by the administration or by a department or agency assigned to do so by the administration.

Deleon Guerrero said his proposal is also a result of the present fiscal state of the government, which is experiencing a decline in revenue and collection. The administration expects to earn just $102 million next fiscal year.

"The Commonwealth Legislature finds that the CNMI's dire economic situation is increasing, causing the government's revenue collection to drastically decline as well. Austerity measures and other government cuts must be implemented to ensure the continued existence of the government," the bill stated, adding that it is reasonable to abolish the Saipan Mayor's Office to save on government costs.

The legislative initiative requires an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of both House and the Senate before it is placed on the ballot for people's ratification in the next election.

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores expressed strong opposition to the measure yesterday, citing the assistance and benefits that community members derive from the services rendered by his office.

"Who will do the work for the community? Which agency or department will handle the services for our people? We will strongly oppose it," Flores told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He expressed confidence that voters will not support the idea even if the proposed initiative passes both chambers.

Flores, who succeeded Juan B. Tudela in 2009, said his office will send its formal position on the matter to the Legislature once the initiative is formally offered on the floor.

Flores believes the proposal will only be a waste of government funds, contrary to its intent. He did not elaborate, saying he will expound on this in the written comment he will later submit to the Legislature.

In the previous years, some lawmakers had tried to abolish the municipal councils to save on cost but the efforts failed.

The Saipan Mayor's Office is budgeted at over $900,000 this fiscal year. This is a significant decline from previous appropriations that reached over $2 million.

OPA denies protest in CHC billing services

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has denied the appeal filed by the Resources Management International Corp. against the decision to award the Commonwealth Health Center's medical and dental billing services to another firm.

In a four-page decision issued on July 6, Public Auditor Mike Pai denied all of RMIC's five complaints and affirmed the decision of the Division of Procurement and Supply to award the contract to Guam Marianas Collection Agency.

RMIC was one of the bidders for CHC's medical and dental billing collection. The losing bidder filed its protest with the Division of Procurement and Supply on March 14, then elevated its appeal to the Office of Public Auditor on April 6, 2011. The Procurement and Supply director subsequently issued a decision on April 12. The company then re-filed its appeal on April 13.

RMIC argued that the division director's decision contained no measurable basis for disregarding the lowest bid submission.

OPA's decision, however, indicated that the technical merit scores were dramatically disparate. It said the winning bidder's score was 275 compared to RMIC, with only had 153. Pai also said that RMIC failed to prove any fraud, bad faith, conflict of interest, or actual bias committed by the evaluators.

RMIC had argued that the winning bidder was not qualified to do business in the CNMI at the time of the bid. OPA, however, said that unless the business license requirement is incorporated into the RFP or IFP (invitation for proposals), the bidder need only possess the business license at the time of the signing of the contract, not at the time of award.

"This serves the governmental purpose of encouraging potential bidders to bid, particularly off island bidders who have not done business before in the CNMI, which assists the government in obtaining the best price for the service or goods," added Pai.

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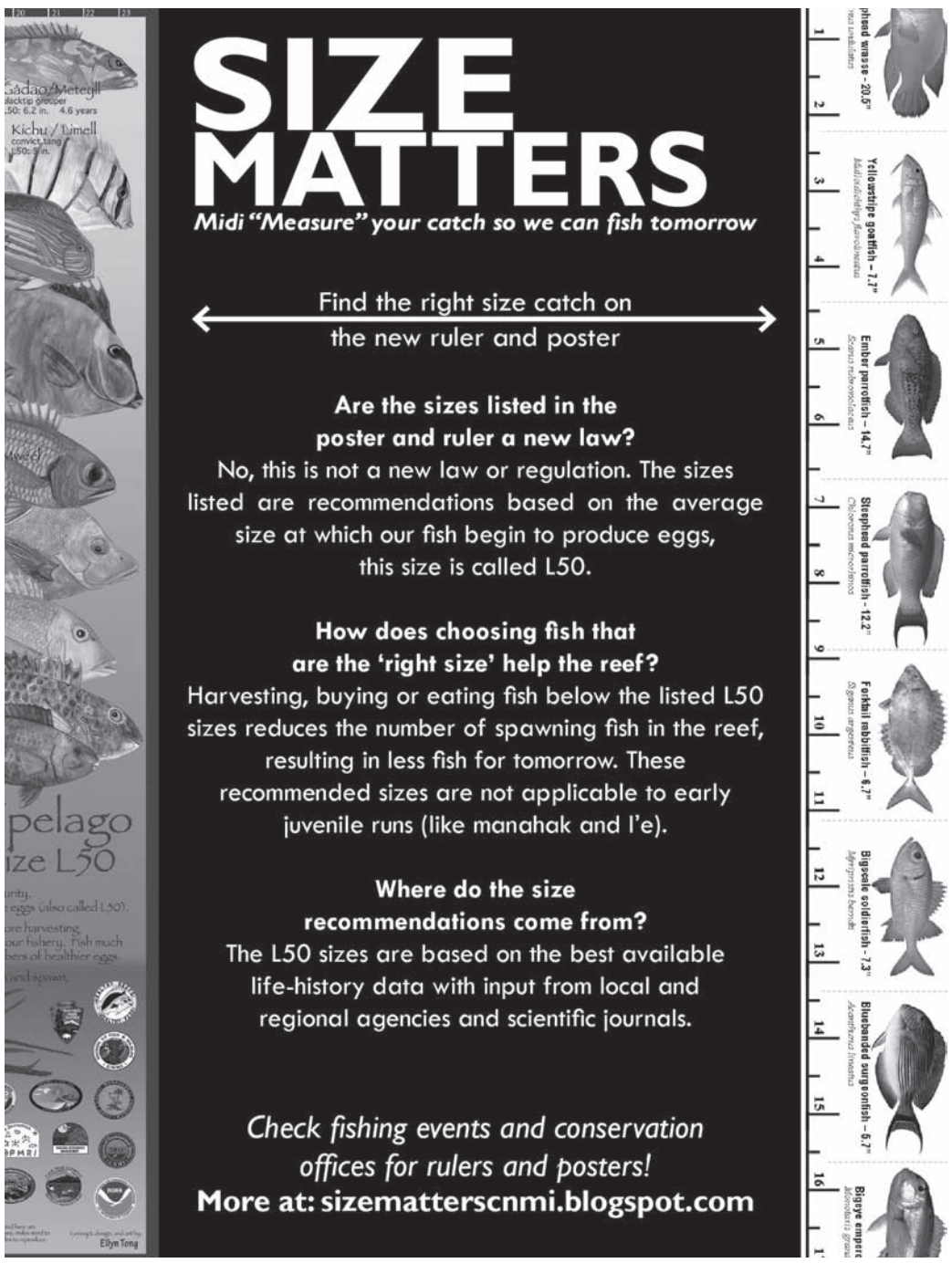
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Maratita's appointment awaits Inos' signature

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said the Fitial administration is about ready to appoint former congresswoman Janet Maratita to replace Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) who resigned on June 30 after serving the Legislature for more than 15 years.

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, Inos said they will wait for Benavente's resignation to take effect tomorrow, July 15, before appointing Maratita, if she is still available and interested in serving the House minority leader's remaining term.

"The resignation has not taken effect. We will address that when we crossed that bridge. [But] we're prepared to make the appointment. We just have to meet with Ms. Maratita to again reconfirm her availability and willingness to serve. Then we will talk to the House because this would require some kind of official ceremony to have her take the oath of office and then we will take it from there," said Inos.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said that Benavente will keep his seat until the effective date of his resignation.

"Upon officially vacating his seat, the administration will then act on making the necessary appointment of a successor," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

While waiting for the government to act on Benavente's replacement, Demapan assured that Benavente's retirement will not create a temporary vacuum at the House that may result in his constituents in Precinct 1 being underrepresented.

"Rep. Benavente is one of six representatives from Precinct 1. So while the administration intends to act in the most timely fashion possible, the people of Precinct 1 would still be adequately represented by their remaining five lawmakers," Demapan said.

Maratita ran and won under the Covenant Party and served in the 14th House of Representatives. In the 2009 election, she ran under the Republican Party and lost to Benavente.

She is currently program manager for the Department of Public Health's Diabetes and Non-Communicable Disease Control.

Benavente, one of the longest serving lawmakers, spent more than 15 years in the Legislature as a speaker, minority leader, and member. He served as lieutenant governor from 2002 to 2006 to then governor Juan N. Babauta. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 15, 1999

CPA to decide on Northwest's plea for incentives

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is set to decide today on the request of Northwest Airlines for a seven-month extension of its incentive program, according to CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas. Salas explained the board and management will analyze its effect on the financial situation of the ports authority, particularly its impact on the capability of the Airport Division to repay its $20 million debt. "If we grant Northwest's request, we should also provide the same extension to the other airlines to be fair to all the airlines," said Salas.

CNMI seeks $200K partial payment for hosting illegals

The Northern Marianas is ready to bill the federal government about $200,000 as its initial request for payment on the costs of hosting more than 500 illegal Chinese immigrants on Tinian. But the island government has estimated a total of $599,000 in expenditures which it incurred during the two-month operations assisting U.S. authorities, according to Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen. The Department of Finance has compiled all the records and documents from all government agencies involved in the operations, but it is currently trying to finalize these papers before the Commonwealth asks for reimbursement from Washington.

July 15, 2002

CDA explores crop insurance services

The Commonwealth Development Authority is developing plans to establish a crop insurance policy on the islands, as part of efforts to revitalize the CNMI's agriculture sector. CDA Board Chair Juan S. Tenorio said a crop insurance policy would help bring confidence among local farmers, thereby, enticing them to invest more in the farming industry. Tenorio said the development authority has been consistently exploring ways to help revitalize the Commonwealth's agriculture sector by helping local farmers recoup their investments or by giving them the guarantee that they will not go bankrupt in cases of natural disasters.

Mechanics for Compact Impact funds eyed

The Office of the Insular Affairs, together with other concerned agencies of the U.S. government, are now working on a mechanism to provide Compact Impact funds for the CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii on a more stable and permanent basis. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs David Cohen disclosed this Thursday, adding that such a mechanism would be coextensive with the right to migrate of people from the Marshall Islands, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia. "This time around, we're intending to address Compact Impact issues together with the Compact itself. So, we're working on creating a mechanism to provide for a stable source of Compact Impact funding to the territories and state that have been affected by the migration of people from Micronesia or other parts of Micronesia," said Cohen.

July 15, 2003

CPA: Where are our needed lands?

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reiterated its call to the central government to help it obtain the additional lands needed for the much-delayed container yard expansion project that is anticipated to turn the Saipan Seaport into Micronesia's transshipment hub. The container yard expansion project has been in the back burner for more than five years since the CPA floated the idea of making the Saipan Seaport a major hub for containers from Asia, the U.S. mainland, and other Pacific island nations. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas lamented the slow process of acquiring the needed public lands despite efforts of the ports authority and the Legislature.

Lawsuit alleges 'salt water' vendetta

If businessman Choi Byoong Soob and Soi In Corp.-a firm that operates poker establishments and sells poker machines-win the lawsuit they have filed at the Superior Court, they may receive an amount much greater than the typical jackpot prize. Choi and his company are asking the court to award them some $3 million for damages caused them by another company that wrecked their machines. Choi and his company, represented by lawyers Rexford C. Kosack and Glenn A. Jewell, sued Li Ya Import & Export Corp., Leng Bai and John Gerald Castro Pangelinan. Bai is the son of Li Ya owner Li Hua Bai, while Pangelinan is an employee of Li Ya. Li Ya owns the Tony's Poker in As Lito.

PSS' only nutritionist leaves post

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's only nutritionist, Hee Jae Lee, will officially leave her post today to continue her studies abroad.

Dale Roberts, PSS food and nutrition program manager, said he will take over Lee's position until it is filled.

He said vacancy announcements are already out and will be closed in two weeks, in time for the start of the new school year in September.

Lee announced her last day at PSS in an email message to colleagues and friends.

She said she and her husband will be relocating to Boston. Her husband will continue to work as a chiropractor in Boston while Lee will be pursuing a new career in the field of public health while completing her graduate degree at Tufts University.

She described the four years she has served the school system as an amazing journey.

"The past four years with PSS has been an amazing journey for me, and I shall never forget the challenges and the rewards I have experienced. Even though I will dearly miss my home and my wonderful job at PSS, I am looking forward to starting a new phase of my career," she said in her email, thanking her colleagues and friends for their dedication and efforts toward improving the health of students and the community. "I could have never done anything without your support," she added.

Lee said she will keep communication open if they want to seek professional assistance in the future.

Dale Roberts hopes that PSS could soon identify a new nutritionist so the nutrition programs of PSS won't be affected. Roberts wishes Lee good luck in the new chapter of her life.

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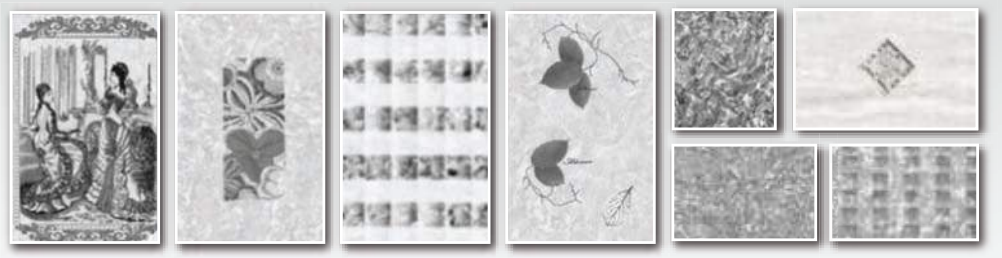
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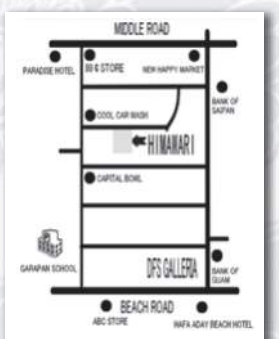

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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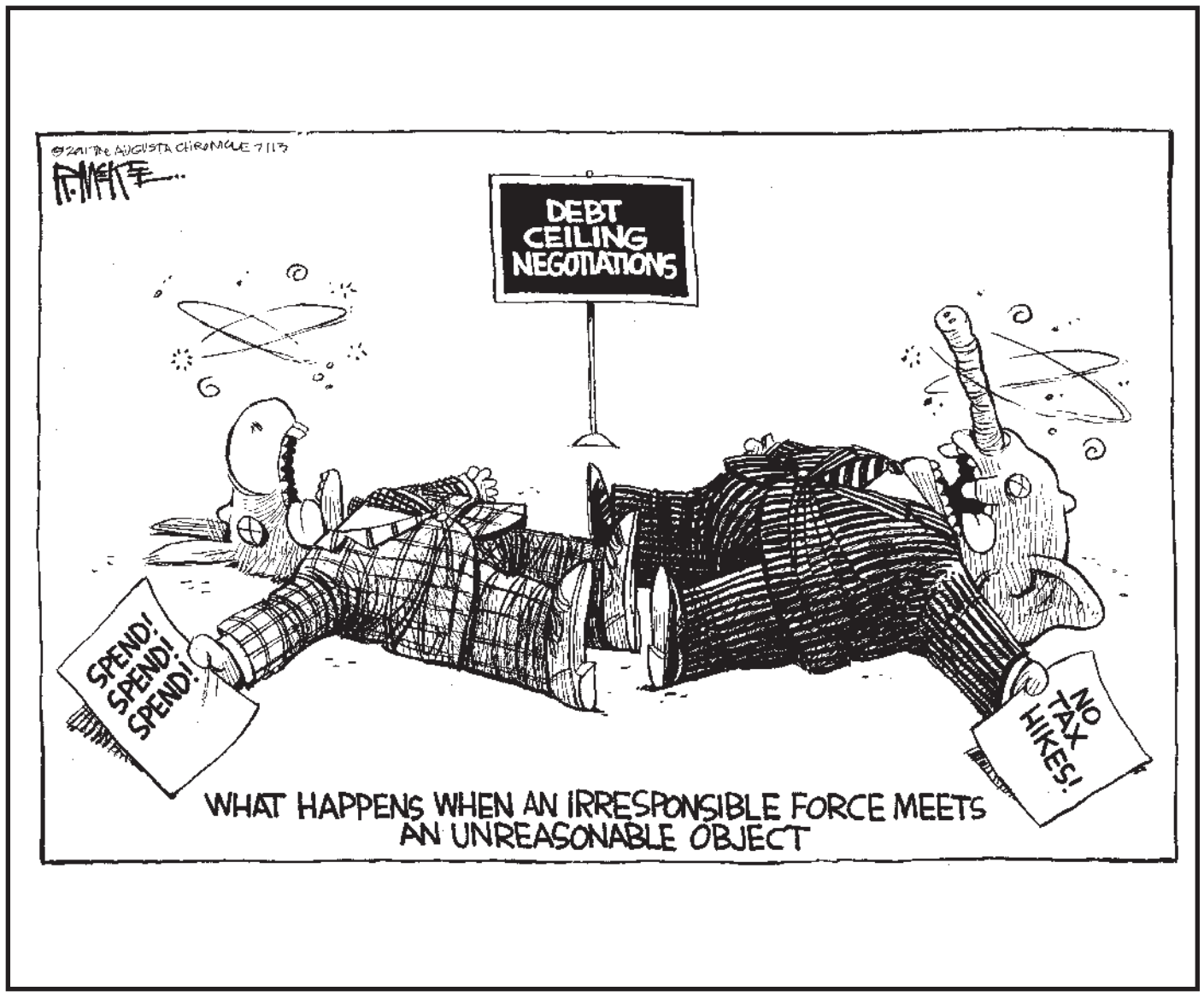
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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN IRRESPONSIBLE FORCE MEETS AN UNREASONABLE OBJECT

Reject Kilili's bill

By SUSANA BLAS DELEON GUERRERO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is the author's written testimony submitted to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs for the hearing on H.R. 1466, a bill to resolve the status of certain persons legally residing in the Commonwealth of CNMI under the immigration laws of the United States.

Hafa Adai Chairman Fleming and members of the subcommittee. I am Susana Blas Deleon Guerrero, president of the CNMI Women's Association. I am testifying on behalf of the CNMI Women's Association, CWA, which seeks to protect the indigenous people of the Northern Mariana Islands, the native Chamorros and Carolinians, from displacement in their ancestral homeland, and other matters.

The CWA rejects House Resolution 1466, a bill to resolve the status of certain persons legally residing in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under the immigration laws of the United States, introduced by U.S. Delegate Gregorio C. Kilili Sablan, also a Ranking Minority Member of this subcommittee.

The CNMI Women's Association agrees with CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial regarding the arguments behind Public Law 110-229, a Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, and its effects in the CNMI. Please take time to read Governor Fitial's written testimony.

The CNMI Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies held seven public hearings regarding the implementation of Public Law 110-229 and other matters affected by such law. After many written and oral testimonies submitted and recorded during the hearings, it was evident that the indigenous people of the CNMI who attended the hearings reject any improved status for thousands of aliens (including illegal immigrants) residing in the CNMI. It is not that those in opposition refuse aliens to have some status, but the people oppose being displaced in their own ancestral homeland—the only home they have ever known.

The CNMI Women's Association acknowledges the plan under Public law 110-229 to phase out alien workers in the CNMI by Nov. 28, 2011, and then the final transition period on Dec. 31, 2014.

House Resolution 1466 introduces four types of categories that aliens can gain improved status. Furthermore, H.R. 1466 will allow also 11,000 and possibly more new U.S. citizens in the CNMI within 10 years or less. Some may state that this number is small compared to the immigrants in the U.S., but one must understand that there are currently 30,000 U.S. citizens residing in the CNMI, most of whom are Chamorro and Carolinian. Additionally, according to the U.S. Ombudsman's Office in the CNMI, there are approximately 23,000 aliens residing in the CNMI, excluding their children. Subsequently, it is arguable that there are more aliens residing in the CNMI than there are indigenous Chamorro and Carolinians. Unfortunately, many agencies over the years have failed to control the immigration of aliens into the CNMI. However, the indigenous people acknowledge the need to stop this massive increase of aliens and the possibility of displacing indigenous people of the CNMI. House Resolution 1466 is not the best solution to address the 23,000 aliens in the CNMI.

According to the information provided by the CNMI Commonwealth Health Center, from calendar year 1990 to May

See REJECT on Page 14

A mission to civilize

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

In the aftermath of the European Enlightenment and the progressive and liberal winds blowing through France and Iberia, the slogan of *Liberté, égalité, fraternité* got furled in France's Third Republic of 1870, finally, after the French Revolution of 1789 that was aborted with the backlash of the monarchist and the ascendancy of Napoleon's empire from Bonaparte to his nephew the III.

History buffs will recall that France was on the wrong side of history when the III sided with the Confederacy in the American Civil War, hoping that the Napoleonic Empire would extend its influence through Maximilian of Mexico. The collapse of the empire and the ascendancy of the Third Republic ushered a confident and expansionist colonial civilization that lasted until 1940 when the Germans re-enacted the crossing of the Rhine.

Northern Europe took the Darwinian suggestion of evolutionary progress as appropriate for the Aryan race but not applicable to the rest of the world, particularly the natives of the colonies (a belief still propagated by the "Aryan Nation" in some parts of the United States, particularly against those of African descent). It is said that occupying forces of the British Empire, polite and desperately wanting to be liked, nevertheless did not see any hope for the rest of the uncivilized world getting properly cultured. The best of the Brits were well mannered, all right, but thought the natives in the natural selection process were doomed to remain inferior anyway.

Thomas Malthus, the Anglican cleric who saw that agriculture was not keeping pace with population, decreed one of the most devastating and prejudicial economic principles that still bedevils us today: that there is not enough resource to go around and in the natural selection process, the competitive predators triumph over the least aggressive and assertive of the specie.

Not so with the French. Their expansionist policy was characterized as a zealous "mission to civilize" with supposedly self-confident benevolent rule and education as the means of elevating social status from the barbaric to the cultured. With Romanticism replacing the ascendancy of the Enlightenment's reason in the French Revolution, it righted itself in balancing the passion of the masses' democratic popular front on the one hand, with the elitist aristocracy of the oligarchic educated and cultured upper class on the other, a dialectic that prevailed in the Third French Republic of 1870-1940.

I was not yet 10 when the battle of *Dien Bien Phu* gave the final accountability to French military presence in Indochina, followed by the eventual ouster of the French civilian domination of Algeria. Napoleonic expansion had only one way to go without serious opposition: south. After Corsica, Northern Africa was only a conquest away. But if the Roman Empire brought the Spartan ethos through its Legionnaires, France also employed the diplomatic duplicity of Rome, so French colonial history was both a triumph of the refinements of diplomacy on the one hand, and brutish military occupation on the other.

In return, the cuisine and fragrance of French Indochina and the visual and forceful physicality of French West Africa would elevate Gallic culture into its eminent sensuality in the arts and recognizable relevance in the existential philosophy it embodies today.

July 14 (today in France) marks the country's national day, historically commemorating the liberation of prisoners from the Bastille in the French Revolution.

Our cursory familiarity with things French began when my Teachers' College taught me to sing our college anthem to the tune of *La Marseillaies.* The head honcho returned as one of the *ilustrados* (learned) who became a *pencionado* (state scholar), coming back from the U.S. with the stirring tune to rally the devastated Philippines in 1948 and sally forth the college he founded in the river plain of the Cagayan Valley into its preeminent position as one of the nation's universities in the area.

I did not know the source then but a decade later, a fellow volunteer from France in a community development project in a village outskirt of Lima, Peru, South America, was so impressed by my ability to hum the tune that I became her closest friend in collegiality and affection (the remote isolation of the village aggravated the situation)! We apprenticed in the art of French kiss, and we do not mean, chocolate candies!

Much later, a daughter in Manila was told by her Vietnamese teacher that she would never speak French like a native, perhaps a negative reinforcement tactic because my daughter later chose for her one-year study-abroad program to live in Avignon, Provence, finessing her *Français,* while Papa refined his appreciation for *vin blanc et rose.*

One of my French students at Shenyang Aerospace University

See A MISSION on Page 14

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

SOHO, Saipan

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

It's no surprise that Saipian's Micro Beach is a common setting for advertisements. Its white sands and coconut trees pretty much define "paradise." In recent times paradise, not Micro Beach specifically, but any generic paradise, has gotten a high-tech gloss, as magazine ads feature photos of yuppies merrily using laptop computers on tropical beaches.

That's the carrot. Here's the stick: In the U.S. economy, and Saipan is a sub-set of it, the traditional corporate opportunities are vanishing. People with skills are getting squeezed out and have no choice but to try to strike out on their own. I've seen this recently with accountants, financial analysts, insurance billers, magazine editors, logistics experts, technical writers, and computer programmers.

So a lot of people are going independent and are confronting the SOHO (Small Office/Home Office) thing for the first time. Which pulls us back to the glossy tech ads with the beach yuppies. So just how much tech does a SOHO newbie need?

Answer: Not much.

In fact, once someone has a computer, an Internet connection, and a cell phone, and I think any SOHO candidate is already up and running on those counts, the other bare essentials can be had for less than $500 total.

I've been a SOHO guy, one way or the other, for decades now. I accumulated quite an inventory of computers, copiers, scanners, laser printers, color laser printers, inkjet printers, optical drives, fax machines, and office machines. I had a retail-level business office on Saipan, which I have since closed.

It's obvious that this gear soaks up a lot of money. What's less obvious is that it absorbs a lot of space. Anyway, with all the benefit of retrospect, I have picked out the most essential, bare-bones tech.

So here's the essential tech trinity: portable USB hard drive, laser monochrome printer, and flatbed scanner.

I've mentioned portable USB-powered hard drives before, so I won't belabor the point. Well, not much, anyway. We're talking backup, of course. I know a CPA who lost all of his clients' data, every bit it of, because he didn't back it up. What a mess. No, wait: What an unnecessary mess. Enough said.

And now we really get to the star player of SOHO: the monochrome laser printer. Mine does more heavy lifting than all my other printers added up.

As for color, well, there's nothing wrong with it, but unless someone is doing desktop publishing or graphics, I don't think that festooning a page with every crayon shade looks clever. It's likely distracting, if not downright irritating, at least if the recipient is literate.

So is color a nice touch? Maybe. Essential? No.

Meanwhile, ink jet printers, as opposed to lasers, can be very cheap to buy. Over the holidays I saw one for $19 in a discount store. For grandma to print out a picture of the kids, well, that's probably just the ticket. But for churning out a professional volume of letter-quality documents, everyone I know considers laser the standard.

Well, there's just one more bare essential left on the list, and that's a flatbed scanner. These things handle a thousand miscellaneous chores. Furthermore, for light SOHO duty, a scanner can replace a photocopier.

Indeed, to match my unwieldy inventory of printers, I also have quite a motley collection of scanners going. Lucky me. The only one I consider essential is a very small and thin Canon "LiDE" series that's well over a decade old now. It's USB-powered and it fits in my travel bag. Neat, eh? If I had to go SOHO from scratch, I'd try to find something similar.

One last scanner note: There's a nifty program called VueScan. It tames otherwise cranky drivers and helps tweak the graphics side of things. The program cost about $40 at Hamrick.com. It works well, it's unobtrusive, and I've used it for years.

Well, we're done! With these three essentials, combined with a notebook computer and cell phone, the whole schmear can be fit into a single cardboard box. So if you're looking for minimalist, and a lot of people are, well, there it is.

Of course, you can see for yourself that Micro Beach isn't overflowing with happy yuppies using laptop computers. After all, there are a lot of obstacles to living such a lifestyle. But the cost and size of technology sure isn't one of them.

Letters to the Editor

Denial of full private landownership under Article 12

The denial of full landownership is at the heart of Article 12 that most folks have failed to see. There are other negative aspects to it that all must try to understand by reading the provision itself and the analysis.

The real test of this assertion is found in the fact that you, the landowner, don't have full disposition of your land, no matter your claim.

Historically, the debate over preservation of land—whether it should be owned individually or collectively—started way back in history. It's a question of individual rights versus embracing the socialistic concept of preserving land for the collective good.

The issue we advocate is the return of full ownership to each private landowner. Such ownership is denied landowners today under Article 12.

Indeed, it's a misunderstood issue that easily slides into discussion on land sale. But aren't you the final arbiter (decision maker) in the disposition of your land? Can anybody really interfere with your decision on family land? Furthermore, how many of us can really brave selling any part of their land? Isn't it true that most families own only the lot where the first family home was built? So why discuss land sale when there's nothing to sell?

You have to defend the principle of full private landownership. Otherwise, you'd lose it if perchance the government decides to acquire it through eminent domain for public purposes. How do we know that such definition won't include the government giving away your land to others as homestead lots? Would you allow this form of infringement in what's your privately owned land?

Next, why do we support limiting land sale to indigenous folks when in fact a land sale renders the original landowner landless upon sale? Which issue are we trying to protect, limiting land sale to the indigenous people or discouraging the sale of land? Regardless, a sale or lease renders the landowner incapable of owning or disposing the land after it is sold or leased. Get my drift?

Nearly all banking institutions have shut down real estate loans—loans to build the first family home—because of bad experiences with Article 12. They have also refused to allow you the use of your land equity—value of your land—for any loan. How then do you benefit from the value of your property when most every banking or loaning institution refuses dealing with Article 12?

Aren't private landowners victims in this case? Banks are not interested in your land but their money from the loan you took from them. Most have had to face losses thus the decision to shut down any and all loans involving real estate. What then is our alternative by way of benefiting from the value of our land? None!

Now, the use of Native Hawaiians, Guamanians, and Native Americans as comparable examples or convenient mouthwash in the marginalization of the indigenous people is wrong by oceans apart. Native Hawaiians were forcibly displaced by greed of sugar plantation owners (25 of 32 plantations owned by stateside businessmen) in concert with the military. It destroyed a sovereign nation in the 1900s; the U.S. Congress issued an official apology in recent years. Stateside businessmen and the military forcibly robbed indigenous Hawaiians of their land and destroyed their traditional way of life.

Next came annexation of Hawaii via a single resolution approved by the U.S. Congress rather than a negotiated agreement. Native Hawaiians wanted to retain their sovereignty in union with the U.S. This was consistently denied them. They have fought long and hard (and are still fighting) for the reinstatement of their sovereign government. Until this is done, only then would the spirit of their ancestors once again freely roam traditional venues of their people.

Spain sold Guam and her people without consideration of the livelihood of the permanent host of the island. I can't understand how Spain could have treated the Chamorros and their island as just another item of consumption on the shelf. I have yet to read an official apology from Spain. Would Spain be humble to extend the olive branch before the people of Guam decide on a permanent future? Would Spain allow this viciously inhuman act to remain a permanent scar in her history? Aren't Chamorros in Guam people too?

Indeed, we've heard and read heart-wrenching stories of the removal of Native Americans from land, including "The Trail of Tears." But they have equally used a war method of the old countries of "violent conquest" in their land acquisition scheme. It included the violent conquest of other Native American tribes in the expansion of their territories. The colonial government interceded with the intent to encouraging Native Americans to assimilate into organized farming where they plant and raise livestock for their ready use year-round. This it sees as a better approach to civil livelihood over hunting the entire country for wild animals. Throughout the years, the federal government has ably accommodated the needs of the entire tribe in an effort to foster civility and decent livelihood for one and all.

In doing comparative review of their history and ours on land, something is rather prominent on our side: our ancestors never had to shed blood in defense of indigenous land. But they quickly adapted to the ways of the predominant culture in an effort to protect the fate of Chamorros in these pearly isles. We've not been displaced, which is a tale that our land is still around and in the hands of our people.

The U.S. paid for land destruction via the Micronesian War Claims reparation. We've borrowed money for land compensation that includes land exchange as part of the payment. We're still here and will be here even after we've successfully repealed Article 12. Do not be afraid to secure what's rightfully yours! Si Yuus Maase` yah ghilisow!

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Class of 1957

We, the Class of 1957 that started as 1st graders in 1948 at the Saipan Intermediate School are getting together at the residence of Mr. Frank and Faye Cepeda in As Matuis for brunch starting at 11am on July 31, 2011. Each and every one of our classmates being is invited to celebrate each other and give appreciation for the great life the Lord has conferred on us and our families.

As each of us reach our 69th and 70th birthday, we want our community to join us in thanking the Lord for all the blessings bestowed on the people of the CNMI. We consider our particular Class to have made tremendous contribution in building our Commonwealth community, both individually and as a group. To name a few, one of our classmate chaired the Northern Marianas Political Status Commission, one of our classmate was instrumental in the establishment of the Northern Mariana College, two became Washington representatives, one became a Command Sergeant Major in Special Forces, several served in the Armed Forces, several served as elected officials in the Legislature, a good number were teachers for our children, several served our people by working for the government and as health educator, several became successful businessmen and women, musicians, the first woman from the CNMI to obtain a bachelor's degree, the first lawyer from the CNMI, etc.

We feel that our particular Class has provided an important contribution and laid a good foundation for our community and we want to become stronger by sharing our stories and histories, so that we can become a more influential source of strength. We want to continue providing solid foundation and strong Christian principles to our youth who are now taking over the helm to lead the people of the CNMI to higher living condition and into a more promising future.

Chailang Palacios
Achugau, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph in showers.	Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲83° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°

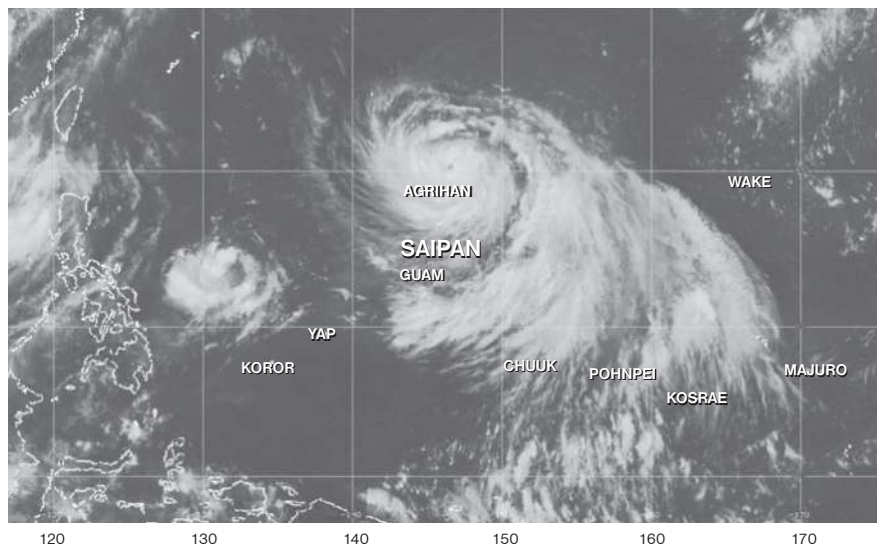
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Windy	▲81	▼75
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲86	▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼47
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲87	▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
London	Showers	▲73	▼53
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Melbourne	Sunny	▲61	▼38
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼80
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼68
Osaka	Sunny	▲92	▼77
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼53
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼73
Rome	Sunny	▲85	▼64
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼57
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼51
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲80	▼72
Tokyo	Sunny	▲89	▼76
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼71

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Ma-on (08W) is centered north-northeast of Agrihan at 20N146E. Typhoon Ma-on is moving west at 17 mph with maximum sustained winds of 105 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 210 miles of the center. Converging southwest winds southeast of Ma-on are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south and east of the Marianas within 200 miles of an arc from 10N143E to 12N152E to 17N155E to 22N153E. For more information on Typhoon Ma-on, see advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and Bulletins from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A low-level circulation is centered north of Koror near 15N133E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found northwest of Koror and Yap between 15N and 10N west of 135E. Converging east winds near the equator are generating scattered showers south of Chuuk and Pohnpei south of a line from 2N150E to 5N161E. A surface trough extends southwestward from 12N166E to 6N160E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
7:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.5 Feet
10:03 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:47 PM	5:34 AM
Saturday	7:33 PM	6:30 AM
Sunday	8:14 PM	7:23 AM
Monday	8:53 PM	8:14 AM
Tuesday	9:29 PM	9:03 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Case closed

The cult of personality surrounding Craig Houston Garrison remains strong, but despite this reality, the heroism of James Yangetmai and the desperately-needed intervention of the Legislature to shed light on the situation at Marianas High School produced real, concrete changes that those of us who understood the situation appreciate—even those who pretended to support Garrison to curry favor.

Even though he lied about us and the situation repeatedly in the press, even going so far as to threaten us with privacy violation in a shocking display of public unprofessionalism, I personally would like to express my appreciation to Craig Garrison for making what must have been a very painful personal decision to resign his principalship.

Because I was not even planning to testify on June 3, there was and is, of course, a great deal I did not say. I only focused on the matter of Craig's disrespect for his own superiors as exemplified by his own words in one electronic message, a message he could not rebut or deny having sent no matter how much hail he threw. But I am satisfied.

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan knew full well what Craig Garrison was like. He treated many persons badly. But Rita is a part of a culture that defers to those who speak with authority, whether what is said is true or not. She (and the system lacking oversight) was ultimately the problem. "I don't get involved in administrative matters," Board of Education Member Herman Guerrero, "an administrator," told me to my face! Amazing.

I hope this situation and its aftermath will prompt more positive changes, but the biggest one has already happened. I consider Craig Garrison a tragic figure, but my first concern is for the students. I consider the case closed for the best. Craig, I thank you again for taking the honorable and decent course of action, and I wish you a healthy and happy retirement. By the way, anyone who doesn't care for Cherlyn Cabrera's leadership or management style should file a grievance. Protests and hearings obviously accomplish nothing. The CNMI PSS is on top of everything.

Robert Peate
Oregon City, Oregon

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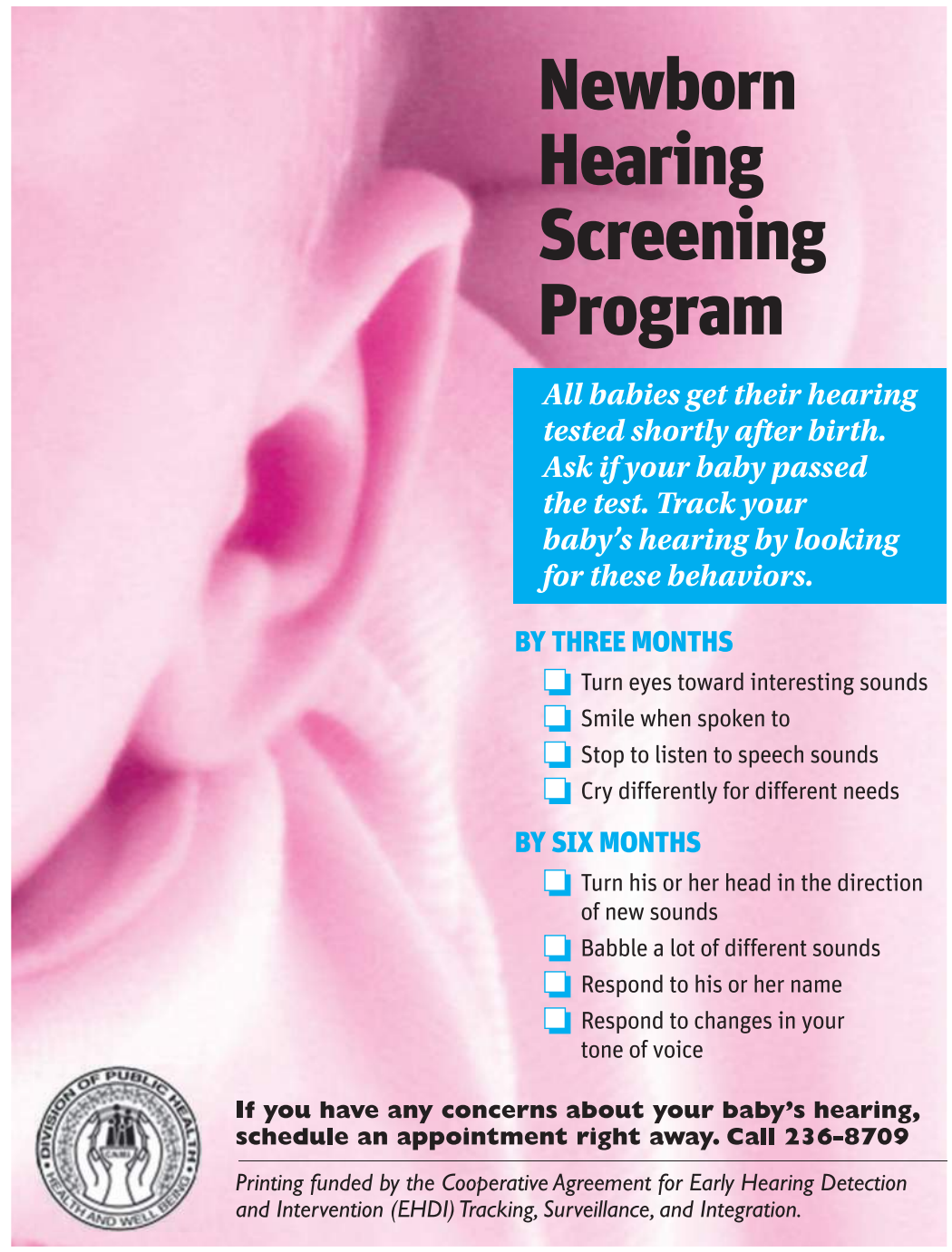
CNMI
HEALTH AND WELL BEING
How is your baby growing?
If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:
Developmental Health Watch
3 Years (36 Months) to
4 Years (48 Months)
Cannot throw a ball overhand
Cannot jump in place
Cannot ride a tricycle
Cannot grasp a crayon between thumb and fingers
Still clings or cries whenever parents leave
Shows no interest in interactive games
Ignores other children
Doesn't respond to people outside the family
Doesn't engage in fantasy play
Resists dressing, sleeping, using the toilet
Lashes out without any self-control when angry or upset
Doesn't use sentences of more than three words
Doesn't use "me" and "you" correctly
Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had
Learn the Signs. Act Early.
You may also contact the Special Education Program at
237-3029
for a FREE developmental screening!
Big Steps for Little Feet
Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.


Newborn Hearing Screening Program
All babies get their hearing tested shortly after birth. Ask if your baby passed the test. Track your baby's hearing by looking for these behaviors.
BY THREE MONTHS
Turn eyes toward interesting sounds
Smile when spoken to
Stop to listen to speech sounds
Cry differently for different needs
BY SIX MONTHS
Turn his or her head in the direction of new sounds
Babble a lot of different sounds
Respond to his or her name
Respond to changes in your tone of voice
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTH AND WELL BEING
If you have any concerns about your baby's hearing, schedule an appointment right away. Call 236-8709
Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

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2X4X20 TREATED: $12.00
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2X4X14... $4.95 2X6X16... $8.90
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Letters to the Editor

'No limit' spending

A few days ago, I read in the newspaper about the CNMI government's overspending. I went to DFS in Garapan, and as I entered I ran into some friends there. "What's the good news today?" they asked. I told them the hottest news was the government's overspending. One of them commented that our congressmen are traveling too much and they do not lend more attention to serious local matters like the plight of the foreign nurses on Rota. In one instance, our lawmakers went to Washington D.C. to attend the hearing on Mr. Tony Babauta's recommendation that status of the guest workers be improved. I don't agree that our congressmen should not travel. Our islands are very small and to enable our congressmen to research or get current information for their proposed bills and resolutions, they have to travel from these islands. Also, it's part of their job when they have their own allowance and allotment. It's good for them to travel and transact business where they could negotiate and bring projects here to upswing our foundering economy.

Teddy Guiao
Navy Hill, Saipan

REJECT

From Page 10

2011, out of 31,180 live births, 18,431 were of Filipino, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thai, Indian, Nepalese, Bangladesh Taiwanese, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Burmese, and Sri Lankan descent. That is more than half and almost 60 percent of total live births during a 10-year period. This appalling number of 18,481 live births of aliens in the CNM has begun to disenfranchise the local indigenous population.

Based on the said numbers, H.R. 1466 will have a negative impact on the amount of social programs that will be available to the local residents. A bothersome fact for many people in the CNMI is that H.R. 1466 fails to address such devastating problem for local U.S. citizen residents.

A true story: A single mother, family of four, only receives $136 in food stamp benefits. She used to receive $250, which decreased to $196, and now at $136. This mother of four works two jobs and allows her 15-year-old son to watch over his three siblings while the mother goes to work.

One possible reason behind this decline is the additional hundreds of new qualified applicants for food stamps, including aliens with children born in the CNMI. On July 11, 2011 as published in the local newspaper, *Marianas Variety,* Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao states, "that more than 500 people eligible for food stamp benefits were on a waiting list… there are about 9,700 residents receiving assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program." Within the past year, part of the agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, SNAP benefits decreased by 26.7 percent in food stamp benefits. Now, does House Resolution 1466 address this issue? It does not.

Consequently, H.R. 1466 will also place the local indigenous population at a disadvantage in terms of employment and voting in local elections. Before Public Law 110-229, the CNMI immigration office mirrored laws to that of the federal immigration pertaining to sponsorship. According to the CNMI law, only those nonresident aliens who could sponsor their spouses were those who were identified as "professionals." Any nonresident alien who were identified as "professionals" had to have earned an annual salary of over $20,000. Many aliens residing in the CNMI today make much less than $20,000.

It is the purpose of the CNMI Women's Association to bring forth to your committee that H.R. 1466 may seem like a plausible humanitarian bill, which in actuality is the opposite and more harmful for the indigenous people. Not only will H.R. 1466 displace thousands of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people, it will also deprive them of full potential benefits from social programs and another small benefits provided by the CNMI government especially during our severe declining economy.

Chairman Fleming, we humbly and sincerely ask your committee to think of our indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people of the CNMI, who have been colonized and oppressed for over 500 years, to please reject House Resolution 1466.

Susana Blas Deleon Guerrero is president of the CNMI Women's Association.

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A MISSION

From Page 10

exquisitely marched ahead of the foreign contingent during a sports fest in her *Qi pao,* and I restrained myself from imagining what she might do at the *Moulin Rouge.* Or Shanghai's Bund. *O la la!*

The influence of the thinking and political actions that resulted from the Third French Republic considerably impacted the Americas and the rest of the world. The combination of military presence and extensive diplomacy remain the two-prong weapon, for good or ill, of the American Empire. Dropping words and phrases, on occasion, some people even have the impression I might be a Francophile!

Liberté, égalité, fraternité is nowhere close to being an attained national status, civilized or otherwise, but for the dreamers of France we declare: *Vive la France!*

Employment info workshops for veterans

Jackie Nguyen, the Guam Department of Labor Disable Veterans Outreach Program coordinator, is in the CNMI to conduct employment information workshops until July 20. She will also be available to meet with veterans and family members individually to answer questions.

Nguyen's schedule is as follows:

- July 15-16 on Saipan from 9am to 4pm at the WIA office on Capital Hill
- July 14, on Saipan from 7am to 9am, VFW at the VFW headquarters
- July 17-18 on Tinian from 9am to 4pm at the Tinian Municial Council's Office
- July 19-20 on Rota, 9am-4pm at the WIA Office. ***(PR)***

11 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged 11 beach sites on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected beaches are Wing Beach, DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Hafadai Beach Hotel, south Hafadai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach drainage, San Jose Beach, Chalan Kanoa District 2 drainage, and Chalan Piao Beach.

The division said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Salon burglary

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident at Lyn's Hair Salon in Garapan, across the street from Martha's Store.

On Tuesday, July 5, 2011, around 10am, a burglary and theft complaint was filed with the police. It was learned that the suspect(s) gained entry by prying open the front door jamb.

The items stolen include a black 19-inch Norsen flatscreen TV, a black hair clipper with an electric cord, a red and silver mini-box make-up kit with accessories, and $20 cash. The total estimated value of the stolen items is over $1,500. The crime was committed sometime in the late night to early morning hours.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(DPS)***

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2005 Ford Five Hundred SE — STOCK # 5G156167 — $11,995.00*
2004 Honda Accord LX — STOCK # 4L024265 — $13,995.00*
2006 Nissan Sentra SE — STOCK # 6L514169 — $11,995.00*
2007 Kia Sportage LX 2WD — STOCK # 77353764 — $13,995.00*
2006 Mazda Speed 6 AWD — STOCK # 61107898 — $17,995.00* (PRICE REDUCED)
2007 Ford Fusion SEL — STOCK # 7R100604 — $15,995.00*
2004 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4WD — STOCK # 4W915451 — $14,995.00*
2005 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer — STOCK # 5LA47104 — $19,995.00* (PRICE REDUCED)
Joseph (Jay) Cabrera
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562
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Mariners urged to prepare, exercise caution in high surf

The U.S. Coast Guard is warning boaters and beach goers to exercise caution in all waters across Micronesia through Sunday. The National Weather Service has issued several high surf warnings and small craft advisories for west facing reefs along Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Beginning yesterday through Sunday, surf is predicted to build to 10 to 12 feet along west facing reefs on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. Hazardous seas will also affect Guam with surf predicted to build 8 to 10 feet along west facing reefs.

A small craft advisory for hazardous seas is also in effect for all the islands through Sunday. Seas are anticipated to remain above 10 feet and winds are expected to remain in excess of 20 knots creating waves along affected reefs higher than normal, making it exceptionally dangerous for small vessels and swimmers. The National Weather Service recommends mariners operating small vessels should avoid navigating in these conditions.

Mariners should check current and forecasted weather conditions prior to getting underway, and remain aware of changing conditions once on the water. Coast Guard Sector Guam advises mariners: If in doubt, don't go out!

Boaters are strongly encouraged to have a VHF marine radio on board to monitor weather conditions, communicate with other mariners and call for help in the event of an emergency. The Coast Guard reminds all mariners that channel 16 is the emergency channel and is monitored around-the-clock.

WATER SAFETY TIPS

Here are some tips for those who choose to go out on the water during the potentially heavy weather:

■ Leave a float plan with a responsible individual who knows your intentions, location and who they should call if you do not return as scheduled.

■ Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket and set the example for your passengers or paddling partners.

■ Plan for the worst: dress as though you are going to get wet and be cold.

■ Maintain awareness on the water—be aware of activity around your vessel including changing weather, and always know your location.

■ Don't boat alone—boating alone is not recommended. Recreational paddlers canoeists and kayakers often travel with a single craft and one partner, or even solo, but it is recommended you canoe, kayak or boat with at least three people or two craft.

■ Kayakers and paddlers are highly encouraged to use the Paddle Smart Identification Sticker. In situations where a craft is found without its paddler, this sticker can allow the Coast Guard to quickly identify who to contact and determine whether they have an emergency rescue situation on their hands.

■ Know your limitations—be honest with yourself and your companions. Your life and the lives of those in your party may depend on how everyone understands each other's capabilities.

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

In addition, marinas and boaters are reminded to check that boats in port are properly secured, bilge pumps are functional, and all loose items are removed from decks. Report any boats adrift, pollution or other maritime emergencies to the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG. ***(USCG)***

ON THE NET

http://www.uscgboating.org/
http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Learn the basics of banking

Some people save money in a shoe box while others use a piggy bank. Attend Bank of Hawaii's "The Basics of Banking" seminar to familiarize yourself with various deposit products that banks offer so that you'll be able to select the services that best suits your needs.

The seminar will be held on July 20, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, at the bank's Garapan branch along Pale Arnold Road in Puerto Rico. It will be facilitated by Joanne Aldan and and Chyrel Javier.

In this seminar, you'll learn:

■ What deposit products and services banks offer

■ What a checking account is and how to use it

■ What a debit card is and how to use it

■ How to manage a checking account

■ How to avoid overdraft fees

Bank of Hawaii's Smart Money Seminars are held as a community service throughout the year. They are free and open to anyone to attend.

Similar seminars will also be held on July 19 in American Samoa at its main branch at the Centennial Office Building in Utulei and on July 20 in Palau at its Koror branch.

For more information, visit www.boh.com/pacificseminars. ***(BOH)***

Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6184/234-7188
Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@vzpacifica.net
Web: http://www.mtcamel-edu.net

Scheduling Fair

This is to inform all Mount Carmel High School students that there will be a scheduling fair on Thursday, July 21, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to be held on the first floor of the High School Building Hallway. Listed below are the scheduled times for respective grade level:

Grade Level:	Time:
Seniors – 12th Grade	8:00 a.m.
Juniors – 11th Grade	9:00 a.m.
Sophomores – 10th Grade	10:00 a.m.
Freshmen – 9th Grade	11:00 a.m.

Please be informed that all students who are to attend the scheduling fair are required to pay $200.00 registration deposit.

Any question(s), pertaining to this announcement may contact the Business Office at telephone no. 235-1251 or 235-1201/1285.

/s/ Margaret C. DelaCruz
President, Mount Carmel School

Fully Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
Drainage System Improvement/Upgrade
AIP No. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-003-09)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT/ UPGRADE, FRANCISCO C. ADA SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-62/65/67, CPA-SA-003-09.**

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, AUGUST 26, 2011**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of the Drainage System Improvement/Upgrade to include the replacement of the damaged roof waterproofing with existing insulation board and diversion of the roof drain all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in 240 calendar days. The contractor shall be assessed with the liquidated damages in the amount of $500/day if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-24 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

Bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CONFERENCE ROOM, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, AUGUST 12, 2011**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow right after the pre-bid conference. Attendance is mandatory to all prospective bidders. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference. Contractors are required to attend the pre-bid meeting.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are encouraged to use the CD bid schedule form. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: July 8, 2011

Man allegedly attacks two men near carnival grounds

» Victim identifies suspect through Facebook

A man who had just allegedly assaulted another man is being accused of hitting a second person on the head with a pipe near the boat ramp at the carnival grounds of the Fishing Base in Garapan Sunday night.

The second victim, who sustained serious head injuries, identified the suspect through Facebook as John W. Rasiang, 38.

Melvin Tudela sustained a 3-centimeter laceration on the back of his head and was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Rasiang was arrested Wednesday afternoon in Susupe for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Bail was initially set at $10,000 cash. He was to appear for a bail hearing in the Superior Court yesterday afternoon.

Detective Jonathan Decena stated in his report that a police officer was doing a routine check at the carnival grounds on Sunday at 10:49pm when a man informed her about an assault and battery incident near the boat ramp.

When the officer checked the scene, she saw Tudela sitting on the bed of a pickup truck, holding his injured head. Tudela told the officer that a man had hit him on the head with a blunt object.

The officer saw the second victim, Herman Santos, who said the same suspect punched him on the nose, causing him to fall down. Medics arrived and transported Tudela to CHC.

A Saipan Mayor's Office employee told the officer that he was standing by the boat ramp when he saw the suspect hit Tudela on the head thrice using an object that looked like a pipe.

The witness said the suspect then got into a black Toyota Tacoma pickup truck with license plate ACE-784 and drove away.

In an interview at CHC later that night, Tudela told a detective that he and his father-in-law Santos had arrived at the carnival at 9:30pm to meet with his wife and children.

Tudela parked his pickup truck near the boat ramp in front of the suspect's truck. Twenty minutes later, as Tudela was away from the truck, he saw the suspect, also known as Nanka, walking toward Santos. The suspect allegedly punched Santos, prompting Tudela to run back and asked the suspect what his problem was.

The suspect pulled a pipe-like object and allegedly assaulted Tudela, causing Tudela to fall to the ground. The suspect hit his head thrice.

On Tuesday, two days later, Tudela called a detective and informed her that he had found the suspect's photo on the Internet by using Facebook.

The detective identified the photo as shown by Tudela as Rasiang.

Detective Decena learned the following day that the Toyota Tacoma with license plate ACE-784 is registered to Rasiang. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

TAGS to host 'Jersey Shore' theme party

TAGS is hosting the party event of the year and it will be one hell of a crazy night! If you've heard of the Jersey Shore MTV show and you love it, then come over to the Jersey Shore Party!

The event is a Jersey Shore theme, so if you look like one hot hottie, you've just been baked from the sun and look like an Oompa Loompa, then it's all good!

TAGS (Turtle Advocate Guidance Society) is a non-profit organization that seeks to aid sea turtle conservation efforts in Saipan. This is a great cause to helping out as well as having one great time.

The Jersey Shore Party will be at Joe's Bar 'The Steak House' (formerly Remington's) located in Garapan. The party will be on July 16, Saturday, at 7pm. There will be a $7 cover and it includes an insane night.

The party will include a raffle drawing at $1 a ticket and features two $25 gift certificate coupons and two $20 coupons from different establishments, so four raffle drawings in one night! There will also be a booty shaking contest and condom balloon contest and the prize is a bucket of goodies. Whoever has the best, most awesome outfit of the night will win a Nokia 2730 3G phone with a $10 load.

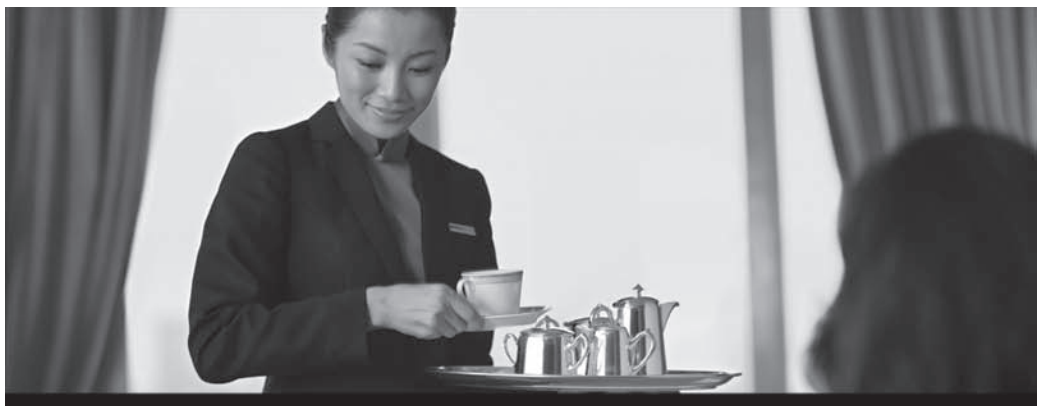
There will also be a silent auction for two great prizes: a Samsung Sharp Sidekick and a whole week of fun, energizing activities at Go Camp!

If you seriously want to hook up with one of the hotties in the party, TAGS will be auctioning off three guys and three girls with a dinner at either Saipan Grand Hotel or Hyatt Regency Saipan, so bring your heavy wallets or checkbook and be the highest bidder!

The bar will include a special mob drink that you can buy to experience what a true mobster drinks.

The Jersey Shore Party will have music by DJ Sly, with emcee Brad Ruszala taking us through the night! Party planner is Bernard Rivera.

The night is sponsored by Docomo Pacific, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, MARPAC, IT&E, Godfather's Bar, Marianas Trekking, Joe's Bar 'The Steak House', and TAGS.



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Pacific

Pohnpei State to host the 27th Pacific Educational Conference

With the theme *The Pacific Child: Cultivating and Preserving the Pacific Identity,* the 27th Pacific Educational Conference will take place from July 19 to 21 in Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia.

The PEC, hosted by the Pohnpei Department of Education, the College of Micronesia-FSM, and Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, is one of the largest gatherings of experts and professionals in the field of education in the Pacific region.

More than 1,000 educators and professionals from the continental U.S., the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands, Asia, and Australia will come together for this event to share and network.

With over 160 professional development workshops, educators of the Pacific region and around the world will share instructional strategies for contextual and culturally grounded learning. Assessment and evaluation, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education, teacher training technology, math, and climate change are just a few of the subjects to be discussed at this year's PEC. There will also be beautiful cultural presentations of traditional dance and customs every evening of the three-day event.

On this occasion, the biennial conference is being held on the beautiful garden island of Micronesia: Pohnpei. Home of the capital, Pohnpei is the largest of the FSM islands and has a lush mountainous rain forest. It is the perfect backdrop for this conference, with its rich mangrove forests, beautiful ocean vistas, and indigenous villages. The island has much to explore and enjoy. A short boat trip can take you to two neighboring atolls, Ant and Pakin, with pristine beaches and coral reef. Pohnpei is also the home of the mysterious Nan Madol ruins, known as the Venice of the Pacific. The ruins, which consist of a series of artificial islands, once housed a royal civilization.

As part of this year's events, the organizing committee has lined up an extraordinary series of keynote speakers along the lines of the conference's theme, *The Pacific Child: Cultivating and Preserving the Pacific Identity.* Among the keynote speakers is internationally renowned M'ori educationalist and advocate, Professor Graham Smith, an influential contributor to the development of what he has described in his writings as the "25-year M'ori educational revolution, 1982–2007."

Highly esteemed Pacific-island scholar, educator, and leader Dr. John Haglelgam will also speak. Haglelgam has served as a representative, congressman, vice president, and president of the FSM. He has earned recognition as an East-West Center scholar, a Fulbright scholar, and a Distinguished Senior Pacific Fellow at the Australian National University.

Also invited to speak is the U.S. Ambassador to FSM, Peter A. Prahar, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. Prahar has served on assignments that include tours in China, Japan, Albania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, and Rwanda. ***(PREL)***

Bordallo reintroduces proposed Pacific Islander Health Data Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo has reintroduced a bill that would develop and implement a national strategy to identify and evaluate the health status and health care needs of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders living in the United States and the Freely Associated States.

H.R. 2486 directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the standards and definitions of health care systems in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands. The proposed legislation would also update the 1998 Institutes of Medicine report "Pacific Partnerships for the Health: Charting a New Course for the 21st Century" to include data regarding the statue and performance of health care systems in the insular areas and determine the effectiveness of donor aid in addressing the needs of the insular areas.

"This bill will provide critical information to health care providers and organizations that work with Pacific Islanders so they can develop strategies to better serve these communities," said Bordallo. "The health survey will be used to determine the health care needs of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islander communities, and to better inform health policy to address these disparities. I thank Chairman Daniel Inouye from Hawaii for introducing companion legislation in the Senate, and I appreciate the support of all the bill's co-sponsors in the House. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I will continue to work to improve health care for pacific islanders throughout our country and the Freely Associated States." ***(PR)***

Solomons raid finds contraband sea cucumbers

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—In the Solomon Islands, a raid yesterday had uncovered a consignment of bech-de-mer [sea cucumber] worth almost SB$1 million [US$132,000].

The consignment of about 140 bags were confiscated from an Asian businessman buying marine products at Chinatown.

The raid had uncovered the bags concealed inside the ceiling of the businessman's home.

The raid was conducted by a joint enforcement team from the ministry of fisheries and marine resources and the police.

The businessman had been operating above the Vuvula poultry shop for sometime.

A spokesman from fisheries ministry who was part of the operation said they are doing their normal operations since the ban of bech-de-mer in the country is still in place.

The officer who declined to be named said they got the tip-off from members of the public.

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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Business

Moody's warns it may downgrade US credit rating

WASHINGTON (AP)—Moody's Investors Service on Wednesday threatened to lower the United States' credit rating, saying there is a small but rising risk that the government will default on its debt.

The credit rating agency said it will review the federal government's triple-A bond rating because the White House and Congress are running out of time to raise the nation's $14.3 trillion borrowing limit and avoid a default.

The government reached its borrowing limit in May. Treasury says the government will default on its debt if the limit is not raised by Aug. 2.

A downgrade would raise interest rates on U.S. treasury bonds, increasing the interest paid by U.S. taxpayers. It would also push up rates for mortgages, car loans and other debts, which are linked to Treasury rates.

Moody's had warned in June that it would take this step if President Barack Obama and Republican lawmakers failed to make progress on an agreement by mid-July. The other credit ratings agencies, Standard & Poor's and Fitch, have said they may make similar moves.

Some Republican lawmakers have expressed skepticism that failing to raise the limit would have a major impact.

But Moody's provided a stark assessment: "An actual default, regardless of duration, would fundamentally alter Moody's assessment of the timeliness of future payments."

In short, that means the U.S. would lose its top rating, the agency said. Because a default would likely be short-lived, Moody's said it would likely downgrade U.S. debt to double-A. That is the second-highest of nine rankings under Moody's system.

And Moody's warned that the U.S. wouldn't regain its triple-A rating right away if lawmakers raised the borrowing limit after a short-lived default. The agency said it would leave the rating unchanged for the "near term," although it didn't say how long that would be.

Obama to GOP: 'Don't call my bluff'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama bluntly told Republican congressional leaders Wednesday they must compromise quickly if the government is to avoid an unprecedented default, adding, "Don't call my bluff" by passing a short-term debt limit increase he has threatened to veto.

The presidential warning, directed at House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., marked an acrimonious end to a two-hour negotiating session at the White House that produced no evident progress toward a compromise.

Another round of talks is set for Thursday.

With a threatened default less than three weeks away, Moody's Investors Service announced it was reviewing the U.S. bond rating for a possible downgrade, and the Treasury said the annual deficit was on a pace to exceed $1 trillion for the third year in a row.

AP

President Barack Obama sits with House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, and Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., as he meets with Republican and Democratic leaders regarding the debt ceiling in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, July 13, 2011.

With the negotiations at a seeming standstill, Republicans drew a warning of a different sort, from an unlikely source—the party's Senate leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

In an interview with radio talk-show host Laura Ingraham, McConnell warned fellow conservatives that failure to raise the debt limit would probably ensure Obama's re-election in 2012.

Republicans, many of them elected with the support of tea party activists in 2010, are demanding deep spending cuts as the price for allowing a debt limit increase to pass. But negotiations have bogged down over Obama's demand for tax increases that GOP lawmakers say they won't accept.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Budget deficit on track to top $1 trillion

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal budget deficit is on pace to break the $1 trillion mark for the third straight year, ratcheting up the pressure on the White House and Congress to reach a deal to rein in spending. The deficit totaled $971 billion for the first nine months of the budget year, the Treasury Department said Wednesday. Three years ago, that would have been a record high for the full year. With three months to go, this year's deficit will likely top last year's $1.29 trillion gap, according to the Congressional Budget Office. But it is expected to come in below the record $1.41 trillion reached in the 2009 budget year. The budget year ends Sept. 30.

Murdoch drops bid for British Sky Broadcasting

LONDON (AP)—Rupert Murdoch's dream of controlling a British broadcasting behemoth has evaporated after he withdrew his bid for BSkyB—the latest, biggest casualty of what Prime Minister David Cameron called the hacking "firestorm" sweeping through British politics, media and police. As lawmakers from all the country's main parties united to demand that Murdoch's News Corp. withdraw its bid for British Sky Broadcasting, the media magnate bowed to the inevitable, accepting that he could not win government approval for the multibillion dollar takeover. "It has become clear that it is too difficult to progress in this climate," News Corp. deputy chairman and president Chase Carey said in a brief statement to the London Stock Exchange.

Bernanke: Fed ready to act if economy worsens

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told lawmakers Wednesday the Fed is ready to act if the economy gets weaker. He warned them that allowing the nation to default on its debt would send "shock waves through the entire financial system." Underscoring how fragile the economy remains two years after the Great Recession, Bernanke laid out three new steps the Fed could take, including a fresh round of government bond purchases designed to stimulate economic growth. The nation was creating about 200,000 jobs a month this spring. But hiring slowed almost to a standstill in June, with 18,000 new jobs. It takes about 125,000 a month just to keep up with population growth.

United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN
FY 2012-2016

Goals & Objectives

EMPLOYEMENT AND EDUCATION:
People with DD have improved access to employment and education opportunities consistent with their interest, abilities, and needs.

TRANSPORTATION:
People with developmental disabilities have reasonable transportation services in the community.

CROSS CUTTING:
People with developmental disabilities are informed and assured immediate emergency care in the even of a disaster.

CNMI DD COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 502565
SAIPAN, MP 96950
info@cnmidd.org
Tel: (670) 664-7000
Fax: (670) 664–7030

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is required by Federal law to submit a Five Year State Plan every five years.

Therefore, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be conducting public hearings on the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota on how best the Council can and should serve all individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. During the public hearings, all persons with developmental disabilities, their families, friends, the general public will be provided the opportunity to review and offer comment or input on the proposed goals and objectives of its proposed FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN. The proposed Five Year State Plan will cover periods beginning Fiscal years 2012 to 2016.

All and any comments, recommendations or inputs given during these hearings will be used to establish or complete the proposed Five Year State Plan.

Schedule of Public Hearings

SAIPAN	TINIAN	ROTA
WHEN: July 18, 2011	WHEN: July 20, 2011	WHEN: July 22, 2011
WHERE: Multi-Purpose Center	WHERE: Tinian Public Library	WHERE: Rota Round House
TIME: 6:30pm to 7:30pm	TIME: 6:30pm to 7:30pm	TIME: 6:30pm to 7:30pm

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the Public Hearing, please contact the CNMI DD COUNCIL Office at least 3 working days in advance of the meeting to make necessary arrangements. Alternative formats of the proposed 5 Year State Plan is available upon request.

Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director of CNMI DD COUNCIL

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part B.

United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Giovanni's Restaurant
July 28, 2011
9:00am – 2:00pm

AGENDA

I. Call to order
II. Roll Call
III. Welcome & Introduction
IV. Review and Adoption of Agenda
V. Review and Adoption of April 29, 2011 Meeting Minutes
VI. Action Items
a) Approval of the Call-A-Ride Operation and Management Manual
b) Approval of 2012-2016 Five Year State Plan
c) Approval of FY2012 DD Basic State Grant Budget
d) Approval of FY 2012 AT Act Program Budget
VII. Reports
a) Chairman
b) Executive Director
c) Fiscal Committee Chair
d) State Committee Chair
VIII. New Business
a) Public Law 17-43 (House Bill 17-43)
IX. Old Business
a) AT Center renovation update
b) CNMI Resource Guide update
c) Call-A-Ride Contract
d) Commonwealth Election Enhancement Project update
X. Misc.
XI. Next meeting: October ____ 2011
XII. Adjournment

/S/ Thomas J. Camacho
Chairman, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

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Nation

AP

In a Feb. 14, 2010 file photo, a U.S. soldier returns fire as others run for cover during a firefight with insurgents in the Badula Qulp area, west of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan.

US begins drawdown of troops

By HEIDI VOGT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan (AP)—The first troops to leave Afghanistan as part of the U.S. drawdown handed over their slice of battlefield Wednesday to a unit less than half their size and started packing for home.

When the 650 members of the Iowa National Guard's 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment arrived in Afghanistan in November 2010, bases didn't have enough housing, translators were in short supply and chow halls were packed. Commanders were using a buildup of 33,000 extra troops for a major push that they said would turn the tide of the war against the Taliban insurgency.

Nine months later, it's still unclear if that push has succeeded, but the pullback has begun. Although major combat units are not expected to start leaving until late fall, two National Guard regiments comprising about 1,000 soldiers in all are withdrawing this month—the Iowa soldiers from Parwan province in eastern Afghanistan, and the other group from the capital, Kabul.

U.S. President Barack Obama announced last month that he would pull 10,000 of the extra troops out in 2011 and the remaining 23,000 by the summer of 2012.

Three hundred soldiers will take over from the 650 departing troops who oversaw security in Parwan, including the area outside the main U.S. military base at Bagram.

In a ceremony at Bagram marking the transfer, a speaker read out a list of the 113th's accomplishments: 14 high-value targets killed or captured, the largest homemade explosives lab in Parwan discovered and dismantled, 52 consecutive days of keeping insurgent fire out of the Bagram base, 3,800 combat missions completed, 400 Afghan police officers trained and a coordination center built. She also read out the cost: One soldier died when a team helicoptered into a firefight to aid a downed pilot.

The commander of the outgoing unit said he expects his successors will be able to build on their accomplishments.

"They may not be as robust as us, or have as many as us, but they certainly will have the ability to secure the Bagram security zone," said Lt. Col. David Updegraff. He said he felt he could have completed his mission with a smaller force, but that the extra numbers made it significantly easier.

"I was very happy to have the size of task force that I had because it allowed me a lot of flexibility," Updegraff said.

Some in the 113th said 650 soldiers were barely enough.

"Most of our platoons were short-manned quite often. We were running with the minimum amount that we safely can. And they were running long missions, long days," said Staff Sgt. Brian Pals, 34, of Hartley, Iowa.

Outgoing soldiers said they needed all their numbers to do the type of intensive training and mentoring called for by a strategy focused on building up the Afghan forces. They had to spend extra time demonstrating techniques to Afghan police officers who were illiterate and had to teach Afghan soldiers basic map-reading skills, said Staff Sgt. Doug Stanger, 42, of Urbandale, Iowa.

"It takes a lot more of us to mentor them," Stanger said. The 113th also spend a lot of time working with local communities—building wells, schools or other infrastructure projects.

Though commanders have said their mission in Afghanistan has not changed, manpower-intensive activities such as these are likely to lessen with smaller forces. The current push appears to be for more quick-strike missions that eliminate insurgent leaders while the Afghan security forces are left to keep the peace.

And while the Afghan army and police have improved drastically, there's still a long way to go.

"You've got to pull teeth to get the ANP (Afghan National Police) to do anything," said Pfc. Scott Silverblatt, 22, of McHenry, Illinois.

As the soldiers go back, they all say they're prepared for the same question: Should we be over there? Pals says yes, because the training is helping. Stanger also says yes, because most Afghans really want the help. Silverblatt agrees, because a too-quick departure could throw the Afghan economy built up around bases like Bagram into a tailspin.

"If we leave, we've just messed up the whole country all over again," Silverblatt said.

A fourth soldier—Staff Sgt. Jesse Ross of Des Moines—says he isn't sure given the strong words coming from Afghan President Hamid Karzai about how Americans risk becoming occupiers.

"Does Afghanistan need help? Yes. Do they necessarily want it from us? I don't know," Ross said.

The troops that were originally slated to replace the 113th in Afghanistan have been reassigned to Kuwait. The guardsmen just found out a few weeks ago and had to scramble to find units to take the extra guns and equipment they were suddenly leaving behind.

The ceremony marking the handover was held in a tented-over basketball court that sometimes serves as a film-screening site. Soldiers in camouflage sat in metal folding chairs as their successes were read out.

A color guard raised the flags of both units and then stowed the Iowa flag away in a camouflage sack for the journey home. As the troops stood to sing the Army song, a jet buzzed overhead, drowning out the chorus of soldiers below.

8-year-old Brooklyn boy is killed and dismembered

NEW YORK (AP)—An 8-year-old Brooklyn boy who got lost while walking home alone from day camp in his Orthodox Jewish neighborhood was killed and dismembered by a stranger he had asked for directions, and his remains were found stuffed in a trash bin and the man's refrigerator, police said Wednesday.

The gruesome killing of Leiby Kletzky shocked the tight-knit Hasidic community in Borough Park, in part because it is one of the safest sections of the city and because the man under arrest is himself an Orthodox Jew.

A day-and-a-half search for the Hasidic boy ended with the discovery of his severed feet inside a bloody freezer at the home of a man who had been spotted with the child on a surveillance video, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The rest of the remains were in the trash in another neighborhood.

"It is every parent's worst nightmare," Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

The 35-year-old suspect, Levi Aron, implicated himself in the killing, Kelly said.

Police said there was no evidence the boy was sexually assaulted, but they would not otherwise shed any light on a motive except to say Aron told them he "panicked" when he saw photos of the missing boy on fliers that were distributed in the neighborhood. Police were looking into whether Aron had a history of mental illness.

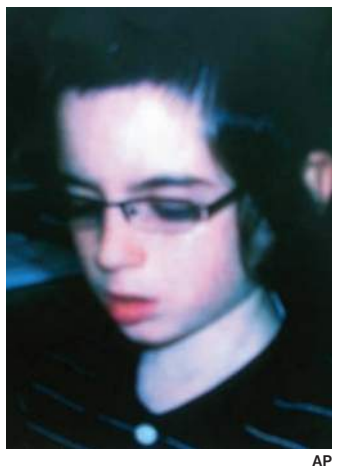
Aron was arrested on a charge of second-degree murder. It was not clear whether he had an attorney. The medical examiner's office said it was still investigating how the boy was killed.

The Hasidim are ultra-Orthodox Jews who live in somewhat insular neighborhoods. The streets are policed by a group of volunteers known as the Shomrim patrol. Many of the mothers who gathered outside the Kletzky family home Wednesday said the streets are normally safe enough for a child to walk home alone.

Adel Erps, like other neighbors, expressed shock the suspect was Jewish. "He's a sick person obviously, but it hurts so much more," she said.

Aron's family was Orthodox but not Hasidic, and he lives about a dozen blocks away from the Kletzky family. When detectives arrived at his attic apartment around 2:40 a.m., they asked him where the boy was, and he nodded toward the kitchen, Kelly said.

Detectives saw blood on the freezer door and opened it to discover the feet inside, wrapped in plastic bags, according to the law enforcement official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still going on. A cutting board and three bloody carving knives were in the refrigerator, and a plastic garbage bag with bloody towels was found nearby.



AP

This undated photo provided by the New York City Police Department shows eight-year-old Leiby Kletzky who was last seen near 44th Street and 12th Avenue in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn, N.Y. just before 5 p.m. Monday.

Aron told police where to find the rest of the body; it was in pieces, wrapped in plastic bags, inside a red suitcase that had been tossed into a trash bin in another Brooklyn neighborhood, Kelly said.

Police and volunteers had been looking since late Monday afternoon for Leiby, who disappeared while on his way to meet his mother on a street corner seven blocks from his day camp. This was the first time he was allowed to walk the route alone; his parents had taken him on a practice run on Friday.

The break in the case came when investigators watched a grainy video that showed the boy, wearing his backpack, getting into a car with a man outside a dentist's office. Police said the boy had evidently missed a turn and gotten lost.

Detectives tracked the dentist down at his home in New Jersey, and he remembered someone coming to pay a bill. Police identified Aron using records from the office, and 40 minutes later he was arrested.

Police said Aron, who is divorced, lives alone in the attic, in a building shared with his father and uncle. When they arrived, the door was ajar. It's not clear how long the boy had been dead, Kelly said.

Kelly said it was "totally random" that Aron grabbed the boy, and aside from a summons for urinating in public, he had no criminal record. A neighbor told authorities her son had said Aron had once tried to lure him into his car, but nothing happened and she didn't think much of it until the news of the killing, police said.

He lived most of his life in New York and worked as a clerk at a hardware supply store around the corner from his home, authorities said. Coworkers said Aron was at work on Tuesday.

"He seemed a little troubled," said employee Chamin Kramer, who added Aron usually came and went quietly.

ACROSS THE NATION

74-year-old suspect in 1970 NY rape admits fleeing

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—A 74-year-old rape suspect who went on the lam 40 years ago has been captured and has pleaded guilty to fleeing prosecution, the U.S. attorney said Wednesday. The rape case, however, was dismissed earlier this month, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a news release. He said the victim cannot testify because of a debilitating disease, and much of the evidence no longer exists "because of the passage of almost four decades." Court papers say the suspect, Russell Benjamin Pearce, is also ailing, diagnosed with three kinds of cancer and diabetes. Pearce was charged in 1970 with repeatedly raping a 19-year-old girl in Fallsburg, about 80 miles northwest of New York City, prosecutors said. He allegedly picked her up on a motorcycle and drove her to a wooded area.

Authorities release videos taken by Dugard captors

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Newly released videos recorded by the Northern California couple who held Jaycee Lee Dugard captive for 18 years provide chilling details about the kidnappers, most notably stealthily shot images from a playground that show young girls frolicking on a tire swing at a park. In addition, video of a parole officer visiting the home of kidnappers Phillip and Nancy Garrido shows yet again how the state botched chances to find Dugard as she was held captive in the backyard of the couple's home. Three video clips were released Tuesday by El Dorado County prosecutors, who recovered the footage from videotapes found in trash in the Garridos' backyard. Phillip Garrido had tried to destroy many of the tapes.

Suspect allowed to view child porn in Wash. jail

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—A legal loophole is allowing a Washington state man accused of child sex crimes to view child pornography in jail. Weldon Marc Gilbert is acting as his own lawyer in the case, and that means he's entitled to review the evidence. The evidence in the case includes more than 100 videos seized from Gilbert's Lake Tapps home after his 2007 arrest. Authorities say some of the footage was shot by Gilbert. "Make no mistake—I don't like it," Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor told KOMO-TV. "But it is not my choice whether to do it or not to do it. There's no question that I don't like it. There's no question that this makes me grind my teeth."

Asia

India says no leads in Mumbai bomb attacks

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Indian police are looking into "every possible hostile group" in their search for the culprits behind the triple bombing in the heart of Mumbai that killed 17 people and wounded 131 others, the country's top security official said Thursday.

The attacks were the worst terror strike in the country since the siege of Mumbai that killed 166 people 31 months ago, and government officials struggled to reassure Indians over their safety.

"I want to assure everyone both in India and outside, that India will continue to work and grow and prosper," Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said at a news conference Thursday after an emergency security meeting.

No one has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombings, which shook three separate neighborhoods within minutes of each other during the busy evening rush hour. The attack came just months after peace talks resumed between India and Pakistan. Indian officials have so far refused to speculate who might be behind the blasts.

"We are not pointing a finger at this stage," Chidambaram said. "We have to look at every possible hostile group and find out whether they are behind the blast."

A steady morning drizzle washed away bloodstains and threatened evidence at the site of the attacks, which ripped off storefronts, shredded a bus stop and left bodies strewn in the dirt of Mumbai's crowded neighborhoods and market. Investigators covered the blast sites with plastic sheets to protect the evidence, police officer Shailesh Kadam said.

Shellshocked residents lambasted the government for failing to detect the plot, despite massive security measures taken after the attacks three years ago that New Delhi has blamed on Pakistan-based Islamist militants.

Chidambaram said Indian intelligence had received no warning of a possible attack on Mumbai before the blasts.

"Whoever has perpetrated this attack has worked in a very, very clandestine manner," he said.

The bomb in the Dadar area in central Mumbai was placed on a bus shelter; in the Opera House business district in southern Mumbai it was placed on the road; in the Jhaveri Bazaar jewelry market a few miles (kilometers) away it was on a motorcycle, Chidambaram said.

The bombs were made of ammonium nitrate and were not remotely triggered, he said.

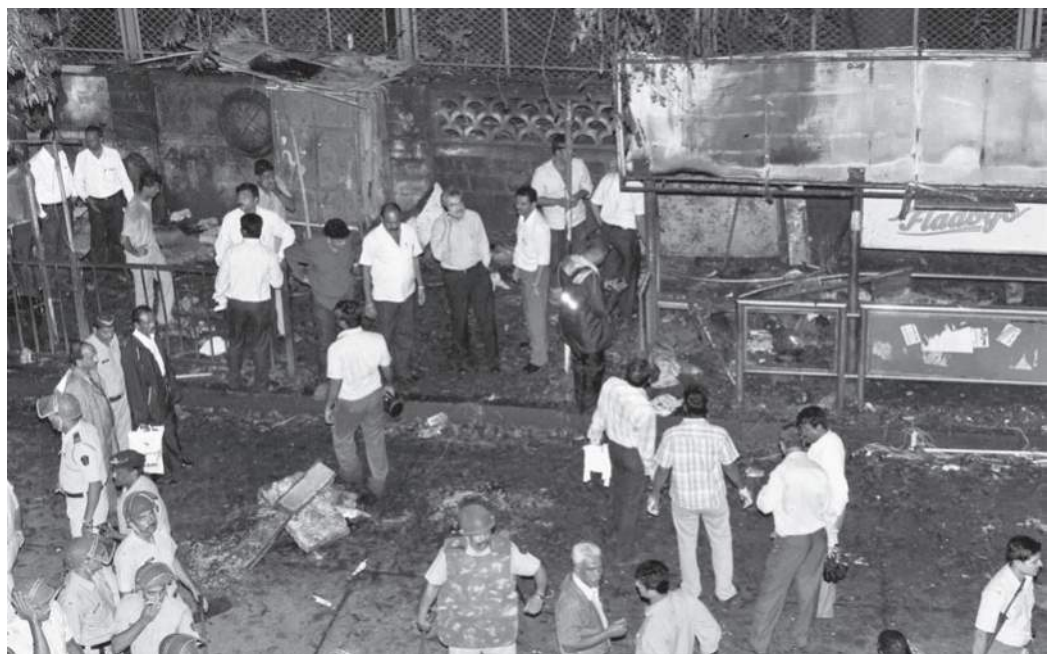
Prime Minister Manmohan Singh condemned the blasts and appealed to the people of Mumbai "to remain calm and show a united face."

Pakistan's government expressed distress about the loss of lives and injuries soon after Wednesday's blasts were reported.

Indian officials have accused Pakistan's powerful spy agency of helping coordinate and fund earlier attacks, including the 2008 Mumbai siege, which lasted three days. Peace talks between the countries were suspended after the siege and resumed only recently.

Asked whether the blasts might have been aimed at derailing the new peace talks, Chidambaram said: "We are ruling out no hypothesis."

President Barack Obama also condemned the "outrageous attacks." U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said she will go ahead with her plans to visit India next week despite the bombings. Standing with India "is more important than ever," she said.



AP

Policemen inspect the site of an explosion at Dadar in Mumbai, India, Wednesday, July 13, 2011.

Philippines: No word from 2 Americans' abductors

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials said Wednesday they have received no word from the abductors of a naturalized American woman, her teenage son and Filipino nephew a day after they were seized by suspected Muslim militants.

More than a dozen gunmen seized Gerfa Yeatts Lunsmann, her 14-year-old son and 19-year-old nephew from the relatives' house they were visiting on an island village near southern Zamboanga city.

The head of a government crisis committee, Zamboanga Mayor Celso Lobregat, said authorities were verifying reports that the hostages were taken aboard two boats to nearby Basilan Island.

The area is a stronghold of al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf extremists who have been blamed for ransom kidnappings and deadly bombings over the past two decades. Philippine military officials said they are also looking at a possible involvement of a commander of the largest Muslim separatist group which has a formal cease-fire with the government.

A spokesman for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Von Al Haq, said his group had nothing to do with the hostage-taking.

Lobregat said that U.S. Embassy personnel have been in touch with the crisis committee.

U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Mark Toner confirmed Wednesday that two U.S. citizens have been abducted near Zamboanga.

"We clearly remain concerned about their safety and well-being, and we're working with the Philippine authorities and have also been in contact with the families of these individuals to provide appropriate consular assistance," he told a news conference in Washington.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW11-IFB-014

REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF CHINA TOWN BASKETBALL COURT, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Repair and Renovation of China Town Basketball Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after July 01, 2011 at DPW Technical Services Division 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizen or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on July 20, 2011, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located at China Town Basketball Court Behind the Man'amko Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 25, 2011 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, DPW 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW11-IFB-014".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time August 01, 2011. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than1:00 p.m. local time, August 01, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 01, 2011, and must be received no later than August 10, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, August 15, 2011. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on August 04, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulation Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty **(60)** calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars **($100.00.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

ASIA BRIEFS

Japanese lawmakers urge against US aid for NKorea

WASHINGTON (AP)—Japanese lawmakers urged the United States on Wednesday not to give food aid to North Korea, saying the donations could ease pressure on Pyongyang to free Japanese citizens abducted decades ago. The delegation, joined by victims' relatives, has been meeting with U.S. officials and lawmakers this week to raise awareness of the unresolved cases of at least 12 citizens Tokyo says were kidnapped by North Korea in the 1970s and `80s. They also urged the U.S. to designate North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism. Washington lifted the designation in 2008.

China says it is drawing up human rights plan

BEIJING (AP)—China is drawing up a four-year plan to improve the country's human rights record, state media reported Wednesday, but it will likely focus on improving living standards rather than granting greater freedoms. The new plan comes after a widespread crackdown on dissidents, lawyers and other activists earlier this year. Human rights are a sensitive subject in China, which complains that Western countries are unfairly critical and points to its success in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in the last three decades. The 2012-2015 blueprint is the second of its kind and has the "aim of expanding democracy, enhancing the rule of law, improving the people's livelihood and safeguarding human rights," said Wang Chen, director of the State Council Information Office.

Thais find smuggled methamphetamine shaped as art

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai authorities have arrested an Iranian man who allegedly tried to smuggle more than 50 million baht ($1.6 million) worth of crystal methamphetamine into the country disguised as handicraft art. The Customs Department said 28-year-old Safi Zadeh Hossein was carrying two plaque-shaped sculptures when he was arrested Tuesday on arrival at Suvarnabhumi International Airport from Damascus, Syria. Customs officials demonstrated to reporters Wednesday how the sculptures were pressed and molded from the illegal stimulant. One 22-pound (10-kilogram) object was the image of a yellow rose, while another 11-pound (5-kilo) piece looked like a framed cameo.

Afghan leader mourns brother, faces void in south

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—President Hamid Karzai climbed into his slain half-brother's grave Wednesday and sobbed alongside the coffin, mourning the loss of the most powerful figure in southern Afghanistan before appointing another brother to take the man's place. Ahmed Wali Karzai, the head of the Kandahar provincial council and the president's most powerful emissary in the south, was shot to death Tuesday by a trusted friend at his mansion in Kandahar. "My message for them (the Taliban) is that my countrymen, my brothers, should stop killing their own people," President Karzai said after the funeral, which was attended by thousands of mourners.

ALEX RODRIGUEZ/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

A team of archeologists and laborers work to unearth ancient Buddhist ruins built more than 1,600 years ago in eastern Afghanistan.

Teams scramble to save Afghan artifacts before mining begins

By ALEX RODRIGUEZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MES AYNAK, Afghanistan—The ruins poke out of a monotonous stretch of scrub and beckon the world to visit Afghanistan as it was more than 1,400 years ago, when Buddhist monasteries dotted the landscape.

An ancient citadel juts from a tall crag, standing sentinel over what once was a flourishing settlement. The monastery stands largely preserved, as does a series of reliquaries adorned with schist arches and shelves.

But few people today will have a chance to see these ruins, which French and Afghan archaeologists are unearthing.

Sometime soon, perhaps in as little as 14 months, the sprawling, 9,800-acre Mes Aynak site will be crushed by Chinese bulldozers hunting for copper—a clear choice of economic development over historic preservation for a country trying to overcome decades of war, religious extremism and occupation.

"As an archaeologist, of course I'm worried about this," said Khair Muhammad Khairzada, a researcher at the Afghan Institute of Archaeology, which is overseeing the dig. "I want all of the archaeological sites to be saved. But at the same time, Afghanistan's economy is also important. It needs to grow."

And so, a dozen archaeologists and 100 Afghan laborers are working like army ants to finish the dig. Many valuable relics were looted long ago, and the archaeologists won't be able to save the ancient edifices from the mining company. But they can remove the statues, gold and silver coins and pottery still buried within the buildings.

"We don't know exactly how much time we have to excavate the site. Sometimes the deadline is 14 months, and sometimes it's two years. It will depend on the Chinese," says Nicolas Engel, a young French archaeologist with James Joyce spectacles.

"That big mountain over there, that's where copper ore is located," he said, gesturing toward a long, scrub-covered ridge. "So inside of that mountain, the Chinese want to do an open pit mine, which means this whole area will be destroyed."

The race to salvage whatever they can of Afghanistan's ancient, storied past is the latest in a long line of ordeals that Afghan historians and archeologists have had to face.

The country was torn by an insurgent war against Soviet occupation in the 1980s and a civil war that followed the Soviets' departure. Statues and other depictions of the human form were anathema to the Taliban regime, and when it ruled Afghanistan it systematically defaced or destroyed anything it deemed un-Islamic. The Taliban's most notorious act of vandalism occurred in 2001, when it blew up the two towering, 1,500-year-old Buddha statues of Bamian valley. Taliban insurgents are now seeking to drive out U.S. and allied troops.

Looters have been as destructive as war, pouncing on sites teeming with centuries-old statues and coins long before archaeologists arrive. Most of the looted relics find their way to Pakistan before getting channeled into the international black market.

Today, the promise of mining wealth overshadows the treasured ruins of Mes Aynak. Afghanistan's untapped mineral wealth is staggering, estimated by U.S. geologists at nearly $1 trillion. Reserves include large amounts of copper, gold, cobalt, lithium and other metals.

The untapped copper deposits in the Lowgar province mountains are believed to be one of the world's largest reserves of the metal. With China scouring the world for raw materials to feed its industrial growth, the Afghan government in 2007 awarded the China Metallurgical Group Corp. the contract to mine the copper at Mes Aynak, a $2.9 billion endeavor that makes it Afghanistan's largest development project.

Afghan archaeologists say they recognize the potential that mining has for their country's economy. But they also feel the need to preserve a heritage that encompasses conquests by Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan, and periods when Buddhism was the dominant religion.

"Preserving our heritage is so important," said Abdul Khalid Khoshid, an Afghan archaeologist working on the Mes Aynak dig. "The relics we find don't just belong to the Afghans—they belong to the world."

The road from Kabul to Mes Aynak, through the badlands of Lowgar province, reminds visitors that archaeology in Afghanistan is risky business.

Along the way, members of an Afghan de-mining unit lumber across the desert in bulky bomb squad gear, planting small flags in the dirt as they move from one quadrant to the next. The Taliban remains active in Lowgar province; on June 25, a suicide car bomber killed 37 people at a hospital about 25 miles from Mes Aynak.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-036

GASIFICATION OR WASTE TO ENERGY GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP), to supply electrical energy or synthetic diesel - produced from commercially proven Waste to Energy (WTE) or Gasification systems, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC seeks responses from qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one respondent to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install Gasification or Waste to Energy generation facilities that best fit the CUC's requirements. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) will be the feedstock.

The Scope of Services requested in the Request for Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational Gasification or Waste to Energy Generating Facilities. Selected IPP(s) will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in the Request for Proposal.

The RFP package and Scope-of-Service will be e-mailed to all interested Offeror, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 200.00 for one set; by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **June 21, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-036 " Gasification or Waste to Energy Generation"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **August 30, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 19, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via email address wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-037

EXHAUST HEAT RECOVERY PROJECT
ORGANIC RANKINE CYCLE (ORC)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced companies or IPPs, to supply electrical energy produced from commercially proven Exhaust Heat Recovery systems (Organic Rankine Cycle), for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. The heat recovery system will be tied to the exhaust systems on diesel engines at Power Plant No.1 in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC seeks responses from qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one respondent to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install Exhaust Heat Recovery systems that best fit the CUC's requirements.

The Scope of Services requested in the Request for Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, any permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully the Exhaust Heat Recovery Systems.

The RFP package and Scope-of-Service will be e-mailed to all interested Offeror, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 200.00 for one set; by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **June 22, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST),** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-037 " Exhaust Heat Recovery Project"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **August 18, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 19, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via email address wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

World

Plane crashes, explodes in Brazil, kills 16

AP

Workers look at a crashed plane in Recife, Brazil, Wednesday July 13, 2011.

SAO PAULO (AP)—A regional airliner crashed in a northeastern city in Brazil on Wednesday, killing all 16 people on board, the nation's Air Force said.

Witnesses said at least one of the passengers was pleading for help after the plane made a hard landing, gesturing through a window to onlookers, but the aircraft burst into flames before aid could arrive.

The crew of the twin-turboprop aircraft belonging to Noar Airlines reported problems shortly after taking off about 7 a.m. from the city of Recife en route to the city of Natal. Investigators said the plane's flight data and voice recorders were located, which they hoped would help answer why the plane went down.

All of the names on a list of victims released by the airline appeared by be Brazilian, though it did not list nationalities.

The Air Force did not indicate what the problems were or what caused the crash, but said it is investigating. Weather did not seem to be a factor as it was overcast but not raining when the plane went down.

About five minutes after taking off, the pilot tried to make an emergency landing in a vacant lot near a beach on the outskirts of the city's center, near several apartment buildings. But witnesses said the aircraft went down hard and burst into flames shortly afterward.

"I saw a woman in a window (of the plane) asking for help and it just exploded," witness Erandir Rodrigues da Silva told the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper. "There was nothing to be done."

Ireland unveils new report on Catholic child abuse

DUBLIN (AP)—A new investigation into the Catholic Church's chronic cover-up of child abuse found Wednesday that a rural diocese and its bishop ignored Irish church rules requiring all suspected molestation cases to be reported to police—and the Vatican encouraged this concealment.

The government, which ordered the probe into 1996-2009 cover-ups in the County Cork diocese of Cloyne, warned that parishes across Ireland could pose a continuing danger to children's welfare today given Cloyne's claims to be following church child-protection policy while actually ignoring it.

Justice Minister Alan Shatter pledged to pass a new law making it an imprisonable crime to withhold knowledge of suspected child abuse as he published the investigation into the Cloyne diocese in southwest Ireland.

Shatter said previous pledges by Irish church leaders to place Irish civil law first and report all abuse cases dating back to 1995 had been "built on sand." He said it was an open question whether other dioceses, 23 of which have yet to be investigated, were still withholding evidence of crimes and presenting an ongoing threat to children.

The 341-page Cloyne report is the fourth state fact-finding probe into how church leaders for decades protected their own reputation—and their own pedophile staff members from the law—at the expense of Irish children. A string of scandals and revelations since 1994 has decimated the church's reputation and standing in this once-devoutly Catholic nation.

WORLD BRIEFS

Doctors threaten Medicaid cutoff in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Physicians are threatening to stop serving nearly a million Puerto Ricans as a result of a dispute between the island's government and an insurance company over reimbursements for treating poor people. Gov. Luis Fortuno on Wednesday appealed to the doctors to avoid cutting off patients, saying it would be illegal. In an interview with WAPA, a local TV station, he also said the government would withhold two months of payments to the insurance company unless it settled with doctors, hospitals, laboratories and others. Just hours after Fortuno spoke, the island's health secretary announced the government paid $57 million of the $87 million it owed Medical Card System Inc. for June.

Venezuela prison uprising ends after 27 days

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A prison uprising that caused seven deaths ended peacefully on its 27th day Wednesday when hundreds of inmates emerged from the embattled Rodeo II prison after negotiations with officials, Venezuelan authorities said. Justice Minister Tareck El Aissami said on state television that the National Guard had taken control of the prison from inmates and that "we've managed for all of them to come down to the patios." He said the standoff had been resolved after long talks with the rebelling inmates, including a guarantee from authorities to the prisoners that they would not be harmed. Information Minister Andres Izarra wrote via Twitter that 831 inmates had come out of the prison.

Mexico suspends search for 7 missing US tourists

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Mexican navy on Wednesday suspended its search for seven U.S. men missing since a charter fishing boat capsized and sank in Mexico's Sea of Cortez on July 3. The announcement came a day after the U.S. Coast Guard ended aerial searches, in which a C-130 Hercules aircrew had covered an 803-square-mile (2,080 square-kilometer) area off the Baja California coast. Mexican navy Lt. Sindy Espinoza said the naval search was "in a suspended phase," but could resume if new information on the sunken boat's whereabouts came to light. He said the navy would be alert for any reports from passing boats that might spot debris or other signs of the wreck.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
July 15, 2011

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. RMIC	05/10/2011 SMS-2011-X-030	QUARRY OPERATION	AS, MATIUS	MAJOR SITING	APPROVED(06/28/2011)*
2. SEAN DLG MACDUFF	06/09/2011 SLRm-2011-X-043	SCIENTIC SURVEY	LAULAU BAY, SPN	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW
3. DLNR/PARKS & RECREATION	06/28/2011 SSm-2011-X-044	JULY 4TH CAMP OUT	BEACH RD GARAPAN	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(06/29/2011)*
4. CIP	06/27/2011 SPI/LRm-2006-X-088 (AMEND)	TINIAN HARBOR	TINIAN, HARBOR	LAGOON & REEF APC	APPROVED(07/14/2011)*
5. PACIFIC INC. DBA OCEAN STAR	06/29/2011 SPIm-2011-X-045	DRY DOCK	BAKER DOCK	PORTS & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED(07/30/11)*
6. JOSE R. LIFOIFOI	07/07/2011 SPIm-2011-X-046	DRY DOCK	ABLE DOCK	PORTS & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED(07/08/11)*
7. DTC, SAIPAN	07/11/2011 SSm-2011-X-047	PHOTOGRAPHIC ACTIVIES	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(07/11/11)*
8. GOOD DAY COORDINATING	07/11/2011 SSm-2011-X-048	PHOTOGRAPHIC ACTIVIES	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(07/11/11)*
9. MARIANAS HARVESTING CO.	06/30/2011 SPIm-2011-X-049	SLAUGHTER HOUSE	LOWER BASE	PORTS & INDUSTRIAL APC	UNDER REVIEW

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza
Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will be holding a public meeting regarding Coastal Permit No. TMS-2002-X-219 for the West San Jose Homestead Subdivision on Tinian. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a request submitted by the Department of Public Lands to amend or modify the CRM Permit issued for the West San Jose Homestead Subdivision project.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, 2011 6:30 pm at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria located in San Jose Village, Tinian.

The public is invited to attend and make oral comments regarding this project. The project file is open for review and comments during business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Written comments can be submitted to the CRM Office located at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, along Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan or mail to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007 or fax at 664-8315.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this project.

RITA C. CHONG-DELA CRUZ
Administrator
Coastal Resources Management

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

6-year-old Illinois girl quietly sinks hole in 1

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. (AP)—A 6-year-old golfer sank a hole in one on a course in central Illinois and calmly walked back to her cart. Why such a quiet reaction? Reagan Kennedy's father had told the Bloomington girl not to make a lot of noise on the course. But 13-year-old Cheyenne Broquard says she told her younger sister that a hole in one was the one time a golfer could be excused for making a little noise. The (Bloomington) Pantagraph reports that Kennedy made the 85-yard shot on the third hole at The Links at Ireland Grove last week. Reagan Kennedy says she's now working toward her ultimate golf goal—beating her father.

Lawsuit: Chase Bank declared Fla. woman dead

SANFORD, Fla. (AP)—A central Florida woman says she's having numerous financial troubles because of a bank error that caused Chase Bank USA to declare her dead last November. Wrenella Pierre has filed a lawsuit and Chase officials said Monday they're investigating how the mistake happened. When Pierre and her husband built their home in 2007, they got two mortgages through Chase. According to the lawsuit, the bank notified credit-reporting agencies last year that Pierre had died. They sent a letter of condolence to the family, saying someone from the bank would be in touch about the mortgage. Pierre says she notified bank officials that she was alive and also went to a local branch to correct the mistake. A month later, the lawsuit alleges, credit agencies still reported her dead.

Brazil boy seems to attract metal objects

SAO PAULO (AP)—An 11-year-old boy in Brazil's northeastern city of Mossoro is drawing attention with his purportedly magnet-like qualities. The Globo TV network has broadcast images of Paulo David Amorim demonstrating how forks, knives, scissors, cooking pans, cameras and other metal objects seem drawn to his body and remain stuck on his chest, stomach and back. The boy's father tells Globo that he decided to test his son after learning of a boy in Croatia with a similar ability. Junior Amorim says he was surprised to find "a fork and knife stuck to his body." The youth says classmates call him "magnet boy."

Ohio shop's gorilla mascot attacked by banana

STRONGSVILLE, Ohio (AP)—The manager of a cell phone store in Ohio called 911 to report a gorilla had been attacked by a banana. The Wireless Center in Strongsville, near Cleveland, advertises at curbside with a man in a gorilla suit. Manager Brandon Parham says he was watching last week as a kid dressed as a banana emerged from some bushes and took a flying leap at the store mascot. Parham says the attacker looked like a Spartan from the movie "300"—except he was a banana. The gorilla was knocked down but got back up, adjusted his head and went back to work. WJW-TV reports the banana split—running down the street with other teens.

Ohio zoo uses fake eggs so mama flamingoes rest

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio zoo is using artificial eggs to fool its mother flamingoes, so they don't wear themselves out. The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium has found eggs laid by its female flamingoes are most likely to hatch if they're put in an incubator. But the Columbus Dispatch reports that when eggs are taken away, the mothers may keep laying replacements. Zoo assistant curator Carrie Pratt tells the newspaper it can be taxing to continue to lay eggs. To get the females to stop producing, the zoo gives them fake eggs made of wood or plaster.

Arizona sheriff calls off All-Star Game chain gang

PHOENIX (AP)—An Arizona sheriff known for his crime raids in the Phoenix area says he is calling off his plan to have jail chain gangs pick up trash outside Major League Baseball's All-Star Game. Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio told the Arizona Republic on Monday that he wants the focus to be on the children and the national pastime instead of his chain gang. The sheriff had planned to have three chain gangs decked out in striped jail garb posted around Chase Field during Tuesday's game. One was to be made up entirely of undocumented immigrants convicted of drunken driving.

Olympic Park visitors urged not to pee near trails

PORT ANGELES, Wash. (AP)—Olympic National Park in Washington state is urging hikers not to urinate along backcountry trails to avoid attracting mountain goats who lick urine deposits for salt. The advice is part of a plan to avoid aggressive goats like the one that gored a Port Angeles, Wash., man to death in October. The Peninsula Daily News reports the popular park also may close trails where goats follow people or enter camp sites. Backcountry campers are advised to urinate 200 feet away from trails to prevent the trails from turning into "long, linier salt licks."

Northern Calif. man celebrates 'Odd Day'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Ron Gordon would like you to take a moment or three to think about what an odd day Saturday was.

Why? Because 7/9/11 is one of only six dates this century that features three consecutive odd numbers. Next up, 9/11/13.

Gordon, a retired teacher from Redwood City, Calif., has set up a website to celebrate "Odd Day," and offers some ways to celebrate: Do odds `n ends, root for the odds-on-favorite or watch the "Odd Couple."

Gordon has been fascinated with curious dates since some 30 years ago when he noticed the upcoming date 9/9/81 while writing a check. That, Gordon saw, was a Square Root Day—one in which the day and the month are the same number and, when multiplied, yield the year as it's expressed in one or two digits.

It led Gordon to begin thinking about Odd Days, which he has continued to do through the years.

"Like a kid, if you find a lady bug on your arm, you run around and show everyone at the picnic until the lady bug flies away," Gordon said. "This is my lady bug, and it's not gone yet."

After 9/11/13, the next Odd Day will be 11/13/15—and that will be it until next century. (Though we still have 4/4/16 to look forward to—the next Square Root Day.)

Gordon, 65, has turned to the web to promote the days, with his wife illustrating the websites. He has also offered cash prizes to people who do something special to commemorate them.

"The biggest piece of it is people telling people, `Hey, It's Odd Day,'" Gordon said. "It creates its own interactions."

Some have acted on Gordon's inspiration.

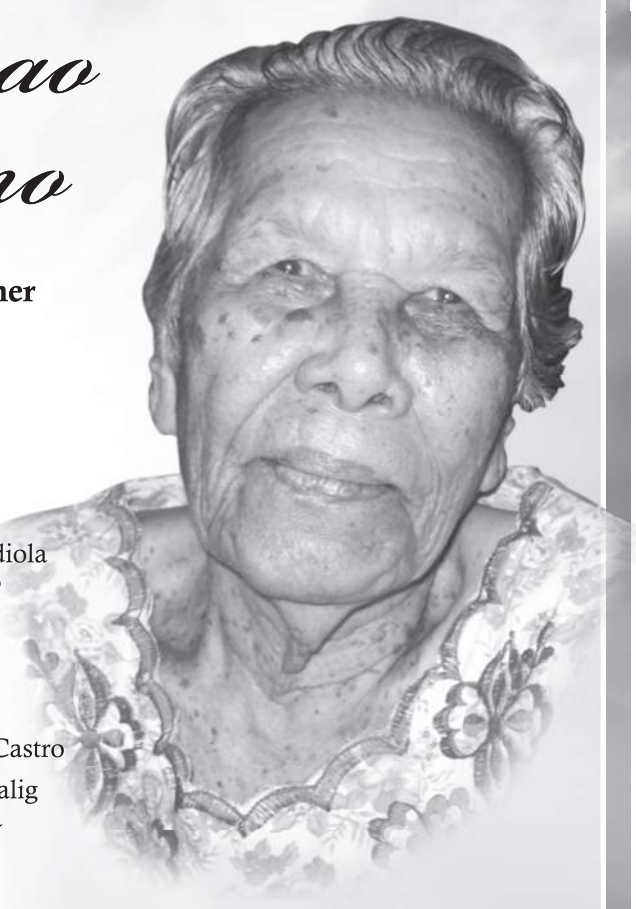
In Springfield, Ill., the Illinois Presbyterian senior home celebrated Odd Day on Saturday by encouraging seniors to eat their dessert before the rest of their meal at lunch and wear odd clothes, said Tom O'Fallon, the center's executive director.

O'Fallon said he heard Gordon talking about 3/3/9, another Square Root Day, on the radio and decided to celebrate it at the senior center. The center also celebrated Odd Day on 5/7/9.

"We try and do things to make life exciting for the residents," he said.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Rosa Taimanao Atalig Taitano



of Rota was called Home by our Heavenly Father on Monday, July 11, 2011 at the age of 93.

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband:	†Pedro Taitano Taitano
Parents:	†Vicente Masga Atalig †Maria Taimanao Atalig
Reared Parents:	†Jesus / †Ana Castro
Parents In-Law:	†Ignacio Manglona Mendiola †Flora Manglona Taitano
Children:	†Jose A. Taitano †Sophia A. Taitano †Donicia A. Taitano †Marcelina A. Taitano
Grandchild:	†Woodward (Woody) T. Castro
Reared Brothers/Sisters-In-Law:	†Maria C. / Domingo Atalig †Dolores C. / Juan Muna †Lucia C. Barcinas †Felix Flawau
Brothers and Sisters In-Law:	†Roberto / †Calistra Calvo †Joaquin / †Dolores Atalig †Manuel Apatang †Clarencio / †Adelina Mendiola †Vicente R. Mendiola †Estela M. Mendiola †Matthew Ooka †Cecilia M./ †Vicente Cing

She will be missed by her grand, great grand, great great grand children and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Nightly rosary is being said at the San Francisco De Borja Church, Songsong Village at 7:00 pm. Daily mass is being offered at San Francisco De Borja Church at 6:00 am and San Isidro Church at 7:00 pm.

Christian Burial will be on Tuesday, July 19, 2011. Funeral services will be from 6:30 am to 8:30 am. Mass of the Christian Burial will be at 8:30 am at the San Francisco De Borja Church followed by funeral rites at the San Jose Cemetery, Songsong Village.

She will be dearly missed and remembered in the hearts of her:

Children:	†Jose A./Rosario Taitano Serafin A. / Janice W. Taitano Crispin A. Taitano Joaquin / Eleanor M. Taitano Maria T. / Mel Uy Flora T. / Ramon M. Castro Carina T. / Paul Wachtler Joaquina T. / Romeo Galinato Abelina T. / Fidel Mendiola Jr. Albert A. / Agnes Q. Taitano
Brother:	Ramon DLG. Quichocho
Reared Sister & Brother In-Law:	Rita C. Flawau Abel S. Barcinas
Brother & Sisters In-Law:	Maria Apatang Ana Masga Ana M. Ooka Antonio R. / Antonette Mendiola Margarita M. Mendiola

Si Yu'us Ma'ase' Ginen i Familia

In Humble Gratitude

†Vicente M. Taitano (Ben)

Feb. 11, 1955 – June 18, 2011

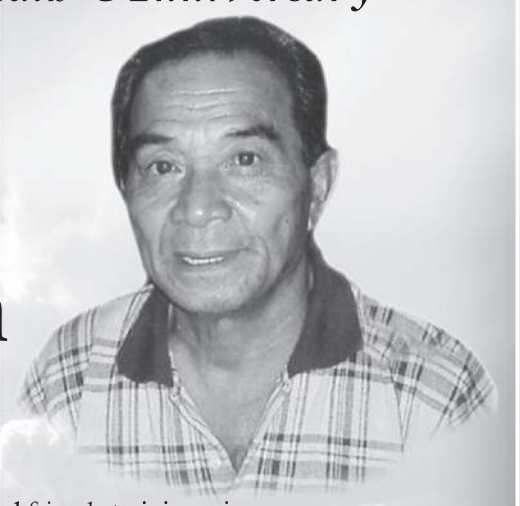
We, the family, wish to express our "WORLD OF THANKS" to all our relatives, friends and leaders from the Church, government, public and private organizations, for the precious love and compassion extended to us in our most difficult and enduring time of our lives. Your presence at the daily Celebrations of the Eucharist, the nightly rosaries, and most especially your support during the last two years of his journey unto the caring hands of our Creator, gave us the strength, courage and the great gifts of hope and love that God is the supreme source of life for our sorrow and challenges. With God, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, the Saints and your prayers, you renewed and brought us all together as one family.

From the bottom of our hearts,
"Olomwaay, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you so much & may God bless you all forever, in the Name of Jesus."

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano, Children and & All in our Families

First Year Death Anniversary

In celebration of the First Year Anniversary of when our Heavenly Father lovingly called my husband, our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, home to his everlasting life in paradise….



Takeshi Martin Alokoa Royal

We, the family invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved.

Daily mass of intention, will be celebrated at the Saint Jude Church as follow:

July 13, 2011 – Wednesday	6:00 p.m.
July 14, 2011 – Thursday	6:00 p.m.
July 15, 2011 – Friday	6:00 p.m.
July 16, 2011 – Saturday	7:00 a.m.
July 17, 2011 – Sunday	6:00 a.m.; 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
July 18, 2011 – Monday	6:00 p.m.
July 19, 2011 – Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
July 20, 2011 – Wednesday	6:00 p.m.

Rosary will follow immediately after Mass at the Saint Jude Church except on Saturday and Sunday; Rosary will be at 6:00 p.m. at Saint Jude Church.

On the last day, Thursday, July 21, 2011, the Rosary will be said at 5:30 p.m. before the Eucharistic Celebration at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will follow immediately at the residence of Rufin & Thelma Inos in As-Perdido.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Un'Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ginen as Rosa Benavente Royal, Famagu'on yan I Familia

Science & Technology

Get cookin' with these apps

By REID KANALEY
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Taking a tablet with your summer food isn't about swallowing an antacid. It's about keeping an iPad or other mobile device nearby for recipes, nutrition advice, and the keys to unlocking culinary lingo.

Epicurious is a free app from Conde Nast Digital for most devices. The iPad version opens to a home screen titled "The cook's companion" and a menu of timely categories such as "grilled mains," "picnic ideas," and "summer cocktails."

Tap on any of the category titles to browse recipes, which come with photos and opportunities to save a recipe as a favorite or to share it by e-mail or on Twitter, Facebook or other social network.

From the search page, you may delve by choosing and mixing criteria—say, main ingredients and dietary considerations—though my attempt at a sausage-and-bacon dish that was also low in calories was, of course, too much to ask.

If you select favorite recipes and want to sync them among devices, there's a $1.99 in-app fee to create a virtual and portable "recipe box."

In the Kitchen, from Television Food Network G.P., is an app that costs $1.99 for Apple and Android devices and promises to put the Food Network and 45,000 recipes "at your fingertips." The iPad version opens to a screen full of celebrity chefs' mug shots, including those of Rachael Ray, Bobby Flay, and 28 others. Tap on any face, and get a list of that chef's favorite recipes. There's no extra charge for the recipe-box function.

If you're missing ingredients, just tap to select the ones you need, and they'll be added to a shopping list you can call up when you get to the store. The app even has a built-in cooking timer, and a unit converter.

'Private' browsing won't keep you safe from hackers, spam

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I recently read your column about the "InPrivate" feature of Internet Explorer (version 8 or later.) The online anonymity it provides sounds like a very good way to avoid unwanted email. Is there any good reason not to use private browsing all the time?—Frank Jimenez, Miami

ANSWER: Private Web browsing won't make you any less susceptible to junk email, or spam. Today spammers may find, buy or steal your email address, but they can't obtain it through your Web surfing.

Instead, private browsing keeps your PC from recording details of websites you visit, such as Web history lists or temporary copies of Web pages, thus ensuring your privacy if you share a PC.

The only real downside of private browsing is a loss of convenience. Why? In normal browsing, you may have to log in to a favorite website the first time you go there, but after that you'll be recognized by the site as a result of a cookie—a piece of identifying computer code—that the website previously stored in your browser. As a result, you don't have to log in.

That kind of recognition doesn't happen if you use the standard private browsing features of either Internet Explorer or Firefox, because they prevent the long-term storage of cookies. That means you'll have to log in to your favorite website whenever you go there. Note: Firefox will let you manually make exceptions, so that some websites can recognize you.

You also should be aware that private browsing can't guarantee your anonymity online. It won't hide your computer's Web address, which can reveal to websites what city you're from and what Internet service provider you use.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: How can I get rid of Microsoft's Bing search engine? I don't like it, but nothing I try seems to work.—Nancy Sansone, Bloomington, Minn.

A: I assume that you're using Internet Explorer, for which Bing is the default search engine. What's more, you're probably using version 7 or 8 of Internet Explorer, because they featured a window for Bing, or predecessor Microsoft Live Search, in the browser's upper right-hand corner.

To switch from Bing, go to that window and click the "down arrow" next to the magnifying glass. You'll find a check mark in front of Bing or Live Search.

Below that, click on "find more providers" and you'll see a list of six Web search engines. Click one and you'll get the message, "Do you want to add the following search provider to Internet Explorer?" Click "Add provider." Now go back to the pull-down menu; your new search provider will be listed after Bing or Live Search. Click on the new provider to make it the default search engine.

STUMP THE GEEKS

How to fix a jumping cursor

By ANNE KRISHNAN
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

QUESTION: I'll be typing an email or a document, and after a while, the cursor (and the letters I'm typing) will jump to another place. It's very frustrating as you can imagine. I have an antivirus program that I run regularly, so I don't think it's a virus, but maybe it is.

Is there a software program I can run on my computer that might take care of this, or is this something I need to take to the Geek Squad at Best Buy or another place like that? I'm using the Microsoft Vista operating system, and this computer (an Acer) was purchased about 2008.—E.H., Raleigh, N.C.

ANSWER: This is a problem I've had occasionally, and I know how frustrating, disruptive and inefficient it is to have your cursor jumping all over the screen while you type.

First, Jeremy Behrens, an IT consultant in Audubon, N.J., suggests that you make sure you aren't hitting the trackpad as you type. Try installing a USB mouse and disabling the trackpad within the pointer settings. You can find them by clicking on the icon that looks like a trackpad in your system tray at the bottom right of your screen.

You also can consider installing Touch Freeze, a free program that disables your touchpad while you're typing. Find it online at http://touchfreeze.software.informer.com.

If those solutions don't work, Paul Rosenberg, owner of Love Your Computer in Chapel Hill, N.C., has a different approach. He surmises that this problem is most likely being caused by a defective keyboard, not any virus or problem with Vista. The keys send bad input and the cursor jumps around, he said.

Keyboard replacement on laptops is fairly routine, he said. A replacement keyboard averages $60 or so plus installation time, but it is worth having it done by a technician, Rosenberg says.

Life & Style

How Harry Potter changed the world

By ROGER MOORE
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

J.K. Rowling's seven critically acclaimed best-selling novels came to a conclusion four years ago this month. And after this weekend, there will be no more new films based on the adventures of Harry Potter and the friends he made at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," the eighth and final film based on those seven books, wraps it all up.

But once the box-office records have fallen and the receipts have been counted, will Harry endure? Will the books be picked up by a new generation? Will the films? Will Pottermore, Rowling's new Potter-interactive website and the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Orlando be enough to keep Harry's wand working?

And more to the point, did Harry Potter change the world?

His fans say, "Yes!"

"Absolutely," says Melissa Anelli, chief mischief-maker at the big Harry Potter convention, LeakyCon, in Orlando through this weekend. The Harry Potter phenomenon "made reading cooler, it made being geeky more awesome."

The messages of Harry's adventures were simple and forthright, notes Greg Garrett, a Baylor University professor who writes about film and popular culture. Harry's "courage and self-sacrifice have made us want to be braver people. ... And his compassion for people who were marginal ... even his enemies, has made us want to be more compassionate people."

"We are witnessing the Harry Potter Generation, applying the

The LeakyCon convention, a gathering 3,400 Potter diehards from all over the world, is evidence of that, says Edward Drogos, editor of the Potter site LeakyNews and deputy chief mischief-maker at LeakyCon.

An event geared toward charities means that "just by attending LeakyCon, people are giving back and helping those less fortunate."

One of those charities is The Harry Potter Alliance, a group formed, as Newsweek magazine once noted, "to make a difference in the world."

message of that series toward changing the world," says Andrew Slack, the executive director of the alliance, which has shipped cargo planes of aid to Haiti and donated more than 88,000 books to Third World countries. The group, which has 85 chapters worldwide, uses "the weapon we have is love" as its motto and has taken on issues as diverse as genocide, global climate change and gay rights, making it and Slack favorite targets of cultural conservatives.

But the preachers selling videos warning of Harry Potter "leading children to witchcraft" have faded from view. And the alliance's "equal marriage is both moral and essential" manifesto seems a lot less controversial that it did four years ago, with same-sex marriage recognized in 10 countries and such marriages now performed in six U.S. states.

The films are already the most popular film series of all time, surpassing "Star Wars" and the long-running James Bond series. But in the end, it is the books that have made the biggest impact on the world. About 450 million copies of Rowling's novels are in circulation in almost every language under the sun.

AP

In this July 11, 2011 file photo, cast members, from left, Tom Felton, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe and Rupert Grint pose together at the premiere of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" at Avery Fisher Hall in New York. The film is the eighth and final film in the Harry Potter series.

AP Interview: Hacking reporter says more to come

LONDON (AP)—He broke the story that destroyed a 168-year-old newspaper, humiliated one of the world's most powerful media moguls and cast a spotlight on a phone hacking scandal that has embroiled politicians, police and journalists.

And he says there is more to come.

Guardian journalist Nick Davies spent years investigating phone hacking claims in the face of police indifference and ridicule from rivals.

"It's a great story about the abuse of power," Davies told The Associated Press. "That's what all journalists want to expose, isn't it? The abuse of power."

It all began in 2005, when the News of the World tabloid published a story about Prince William suffering a knee injury.

Royal household staff believed the paper, part of the Rupert Murdoch media empire, could only have known about the injury by listening to the prince's messages and asked police to investigate.

The inquiry led to two men working for the News of the World: Reporter Clive Goodman and private investigator Glenn Mulcaire, who were jailed in 2007 for eavesdropping on messages left on the cell phones of royal aides, including some from Prince William and his brother Harry.

Davies

The tabloid's editor, Andy Coulson, said he knew nothing about the men's actions but still resigned. Soon after, then-opposition leader David Cameron hired Coulson as his communications chief and kept him on when he became prime minister in May 2010.

Although interest faded in the story, Davies stayed on the trail.

Suspecting the practice of phone hacking was more widespread, Davies turned to sources he had cultivated during some 30 years at The Guardian.

The Guardian ran his piece in 2009. It revealed that Rupert Murdoch's papers had paid out more than $1.6 million (1 million pounds) to settle law suits involving allegations of hacking into phone messages, as well as illegally accessing tax records, social security files and bank statements of politicians, actors and sports stars.

Davies said police had evidence that thousands of people—from celebrities like Gwyneth Paltrow and Sienna Miller to politicians including former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott—had been targeted by private investigators working for Murdoch papers.

He said court papers showed a suit brought against the News of the World by Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballer's Association, was settled in exchange for a gag order preventing Taylor from talking about the case.

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Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows-Part2
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15
Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
The final adventure in the Harry Potter film series follows Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron (Rupert Grint), and Hermione (Emma Watson) as they prepare for a final battle with Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), who is determined to destroy Harry once and for all. In order to defeat the powerful wizard, they must find and destroy Voldemort's last and most elusive Horcrux—that is, the enchanted piece of soul allowing him to remain immortal—before his nefarious plans come to fruition.

Zookeeper
Fri and Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30
Kevin James, Rosario Dawson
Comedy • Rated PG
Synopsis
Beloved zookeeper Griffin Keyes (Kevin James) decides to quit his job to dive into the dating pool, and finds that his animal friends have been harboring an incredible secret in this comedy from director Frank Coraci (The Wedding Singer, Click). Griffin is a single guy who loves his job at the Franklin Park Zoo. He has a special bond with the animals, yet he can't help but feel lonely each night when he returns to an empty house.

Horrible Bosses
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:20 7:20
Jason Bateman, Jennifer Aniston
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Colin Farrell, Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman, and Charlie Day star in this workplace comedy about three frustrated employees who hatch a plan to kill their micromanaging bosses, only to find their murderous plot snowballing into disaster. Seth Gordon (The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters) directs a screenplay written by Michael Markowitz, Jonathan Goldstein, and John Francis Daley.

Monte Carlo
Fri and Sat 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:10 7:10
Selena Gomez, Leighton Meester
Comedy • Rated PG

Transformers: Dark of the Moon
Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Cars 2
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05
Owen Wilson, John Turturro
Children's/family • Rated PG

Bad Teacher
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25
Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake
Comedy • Rated R

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Aunt's trepidation shouldn't ruin teen's trip of a lifetime

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 13-year-old daughter, "Alisa," has earned a scholarship to participate in a month-long summer language program in Turkey. As soon as my sister "June" found out I was allowing Alisa to attend, she called me a moron. She has been giving me the silent treatment for almost a month. June is terrified my daughter will be a victim of terrorists, a plane crash, kidnapping or worse.

Alisa has consistently proven she is trustworthy and responsible. After some research I determined the country and the program are safe. Alisa will be traveling with a small group of students and three adult chaperones who are native to the host country.

Our mother was afraid of everything, and I don't want to pass that kind of irrational fear on to Alisa after she worked so hard to earn a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that could shape the course of her life. Am I really a poor parent for allowing my child to travel halfway around the world? I feel I made the right decision.

STUNNED SISTER IN LITTLE ROCK

DEAR STUNNED SISTER: A poor parent? Not at all. You would be one if you caved in to your sister's emotional blackmail. Taking this trip is a privilege your daughter worked hard for, and seeing firsthand that there is a world filled with interesting, good people will open her mind to opportunities and possibilities that few people her age are able to experience.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife uses her hands to push her food around her dinner plate and onto her fork or spoon. I see her do this at almost every meal, and usually say nothing. But every once in a while I feel compelled to ask her to stop using her hands to eat. When I do she says I'm "rude" to even take notice of how she eats and mention it.

Am I rude? I was brought up in a blue-collar home, and whenever I touched my food with my hands, or put my elbows on the table, I got a slap from one of my older brothers or sister.

MINDED MY MANNERS IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR MINDED YOUR MANNERS: It appears your wife was raised in a household where good table manners weren't as important to her family as they were to yours. According to Emily Post: "If a piece of food keeps eluding your fork, don't push it onto the tines with your finger. Instead, USE A PIECE OF BREAD OR YOUR KNIFE AS A PUSHER." (Italics are mine.) Share this with your wife and the situation may improve.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: How do your readers feel about the words "soul mate"? I never imagined those words would cross my mind until recently—and I'm not talking about my spouse. Is it possible to feel someone is your soul mate without knowing the feelings are reciprocated?

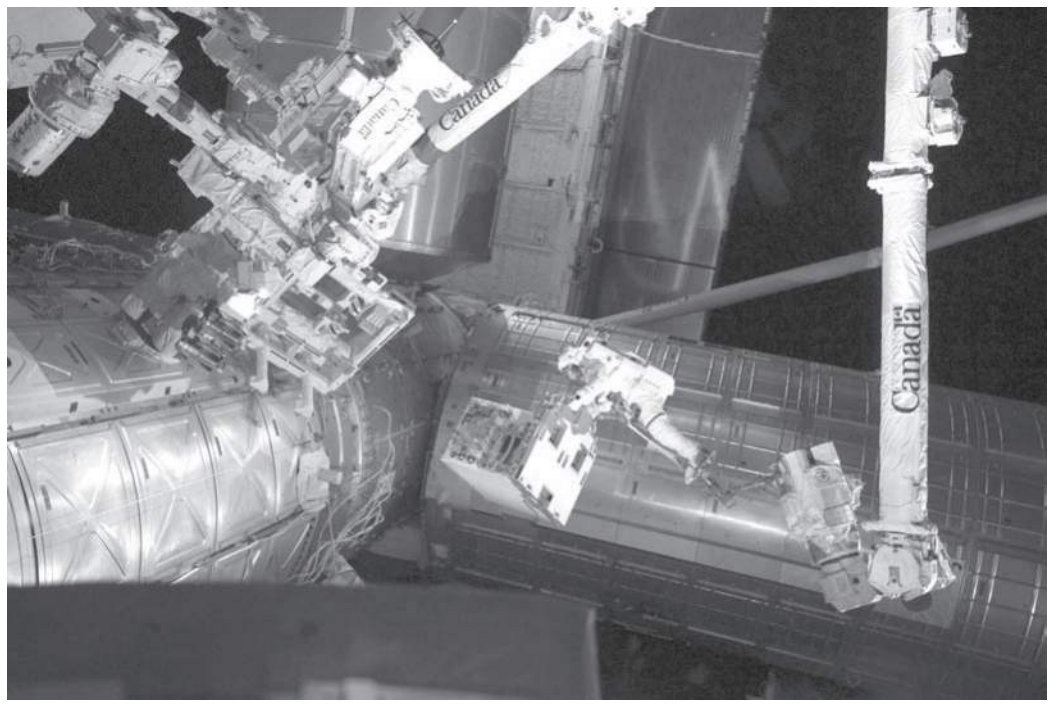
There are many roadblocks in the way of a relationship with my soul mate—but I know I'd have to wait another lifetime for the kind of relationship I feel could exist with this other person. Comments, Abby?

PONDERING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

DEAR PONDERING: Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, 11th Edition, defines "soul mate" n. (1822) as "a person who strongly resembles another in attitudes or beliefs." The American Heritage Dictionary, Fourth Edition, defines soul mate as "one of two persons compatible with each other in disposition, point of view or sensitivity."

While you are pondering, please ponder this: When you married your spouse, I'm hoping you felt you had much in common and thought you could build a successful future together. If you have lost that connection, try to rebuild it before sacrificing your marriage because the grass looks greener somewhere else. And if the object of your preoccupation is not aware of your feelings, please don't destroy your marriage over what may be a one-way crush.

Astronauts go from Elton John salute to trash duty



AP

In this Tuesday, July 12, 2011 photo made available by NASA, astronaut Ron Garan rides on the International Space Station's robotic arm as he transfers a failed pump module to the cargo bay of space shuttle Atlantis.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The astronauts making NASA's last shuttle flight turned into moving men and garbage haulers Wednesday with no time to dwell on their place in space history, after enjoying a special salute from the original "Rocket Man," Elton John.

When asked by a journalist how the mission was going, Atlantis' pilot, Douglas Hurley, replied: "I've got one word for you. Really busy."

OK, two words.

In their first news interviews from orbit, Atlantis' four astronauts said they were satisfied to go from Tuesday's last spacewalk of the 30-year shuttle era to more mundane matters—unloading supplies and hauling trash. At least they didn't have to deal with a loud and smelly toilet on the International Space Station; a station resident handled that.

"We've got some great station hosts up here, and we're just trying to get them all stocked up for the next year," Hurley said. "It keeps us so focused that we tend not to, I think, look at the big picture as much."

Atlantis delivered several tons of food, clothes and other household goods. The space station is supposed to operate for another decade, and unmanned craft from multiple countries will keep up supply runs once NASA's shuttle program ends.

Flight director Chris Edelen smiled while quoting space station astronaut Michael Fossum on going from spacewalking to closet cleaning.

"Just 24 hours ago, he was doing the most amazing thing that a human being could possibly do ... to float in the vacuum of space 240 miles above the Earth, and today, he's basically rearranging a closet and his buddy is working on the toilet," Edelen said at a news conference. "So yes, that's all in the life of an astronaut."

In honor of this last shuttle flight, NASA beamed up a prerecorded message by the British superstar, as well as a half-minute of his Apollo-era 1972 song "Rocket Man," which was inspired by space exploration.

"Good morning, Atlantis, this is Elton John. We wish you much success on your mission and a huge thank you to all the men and women at NASA who worked on the shuttle for the last three decades."

"Elton John. Music legend. Wow. That is absolutely fantastic," replied Atlantis' commander, Christopher Ferguson. "I think it just illustrates ... the amount of people globally who have been affected by the shuttle program itself."

"Rocket Man" has awakened previous shuttle crews and was on NASA's Top 40 list of wake-up music for public voting earlier this year. It garnered more than 4,300 votes for 17th place.

NASA hopes to whip up even more interest Thursday by inviting the public to a virtual all-American meal with the last shuttle crew and their station colleagues. The astronauts will enjoy grilled chicken or barbecued beef brisket, Southwestern corn, baked beans and for dessert—Hostess apple pie.

The recipes—formulations as NASA's food scientists call them—are online: http://tinyurl.com/NASAmeal

Both crews—10 astronauts strong—spent Wednesday unloading the cargo carrier that flew up on the shuttle. They will fill it back up with station trash and discarded equipment for return to Earth next week.

Space station astronaut Ronald Garan Jr.—Fossum's spacewalking partner—got stuck with toilet duty. The stench from the American-made station toilet was so bad Monday that the astronauts had to shut it down as spacewalk preparations were under way; that work was taking place close to the bathroom.

While the smell eased, the toilet had a loud motor noise and poor suction. Flight controllers decided it was time to replace some old equipment.

Controllers believe the odor problem was from the urine-processing system. Urine is recycled aboard the space station into water for cooking and drinking. For now, anyway, it's back to being odor-free. "The (station) crew said they can live with it ... it's just not the kind of thing you want to have when you have houseguests and you have a real busy schedule," Edelen said.

Atlantis' 13-day mission is the last ever for a space shuttle. After that, the three surviving shuttles will become museum displays.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Dallas cops called to rapper Nicki Minaj's hotel

DALLAS (AP)—Records show police were called to a Dallas hotel after rapper Nicki Minaj argued with a friend, whom she said shoved a suitcase across her chin and lip. An incident report says Minaj, whose real name is Onika Maraj, refused to file a police report after the Monday call. She opened a Britney Spears concert Tuesday in Dallas. The incident report says Minaj asked a hotel employee to call police and told an officer she was sharing a room with the man with whom she was arguing. The report says she had slight bruising and the inside of her lip was cut. In tweets Wednesday, Minaj seemed to deny reports of being hit, saying anyone who "slapped or punched" her would "leave on a stretcher." Minaj's representative didn't immediately comment.

Oprah Winfrey expanding her role at OWN channel

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey is expanding her role at her struggling network beyond the position of chairman. OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network announced Wednesday that she will also become the chief executive officer and chief creative officer beginning this fall. Winfrey is claiming the title once held by Christina Norman, the former CEO who was dismissed in May in the wake of disappointing ratings for the channel. Norman's position has been filled in the interim by Peter Liguori, the chief operating officer for Discovery Communications. OWN premiered Jan. 1. It's a joint venture of Discovery and Winfrey's Harpo, Inc. Winfrey's syndicated talk show ended in May. She has since pledged to devote her full energies to OWN.

Czech abstract painter Zdenek Sykora dies at 91

PRAGUE (AP)—Czech painter Zdenek Sykora, who was one of the first to use computers for his geometrical paintings, has died aged 91. Sykora's aide Veronika Hudeckova says he died at his home in the town of Louny on Tuesday evening. Born Feb 3, 1920, in Louny, Sykora's style gradually developed from landscape paintings in the late 1940s to geometrical abstract structures. In the 1960s, he became one of the first artists in the world to use computers to help him create geometric abstract paintings. Later on, Sykora turned to a less strict system of line paintings with lines of color moving across large canvasses in random directions. His paintings are owned by galleries around the globe, including the Pompidou Center in Paris.

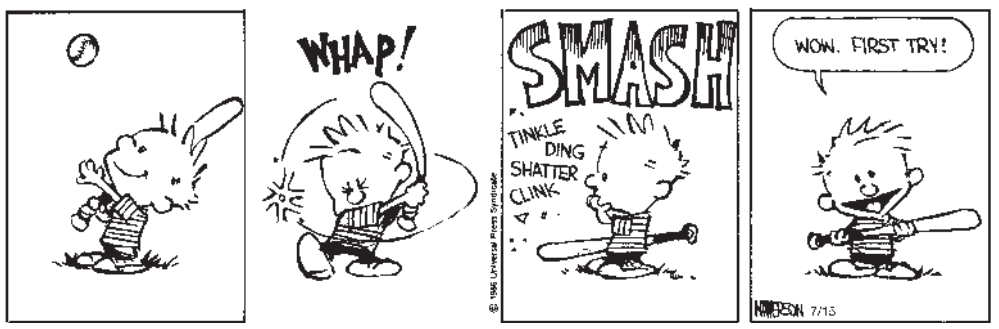
Longoria's Vegas nightclub closes amid money woes

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A Las Vegas nightclub owned by "Desperate Housewives" co-star Eva Longoria is temporary closing its doors amid financial troubles. Longoria's Beso club within the CityCenter complex on the Las Vegas Strip closed Monday to save money. Beso LLC bankruptcy attorney Lenard Schwartzer said Wednesday that the restaurant attached to the club will remain open because it is profitable. He says the nightclub could eventually be renovated and reopened. Beso LLC filed in January for bankruptcy to remain operating while reorganizing nearly $5.7 million in debt. The federal Chapter 11 filing claimed the nightspot was losing more than $76,000 per month. Longoria owns nearly one-third of the business but is also listed as an unsecured creditor.

Pastimes

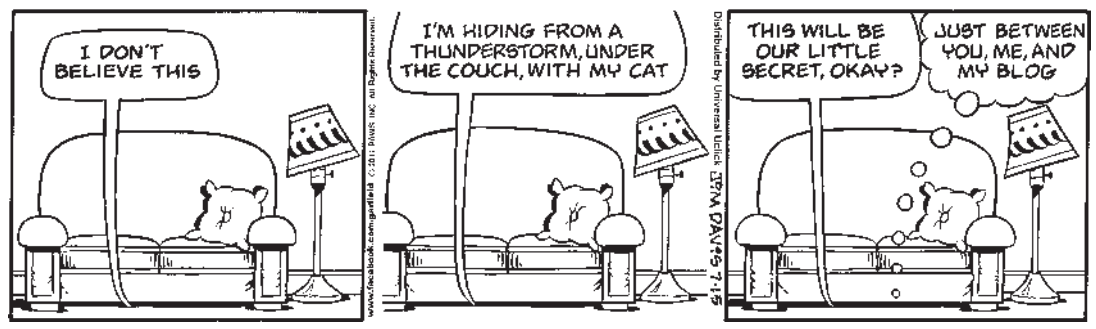
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I DON'T BELIEVE THIS
I'M HIDING FROM A THUNDERSTORM, UNDER THE COUCH, WITH MY CAT
THIS WILL BE OUR LITTLE SECRET, OKAY?
JUST BETWEEN YOU, ME, AND MY BLOG

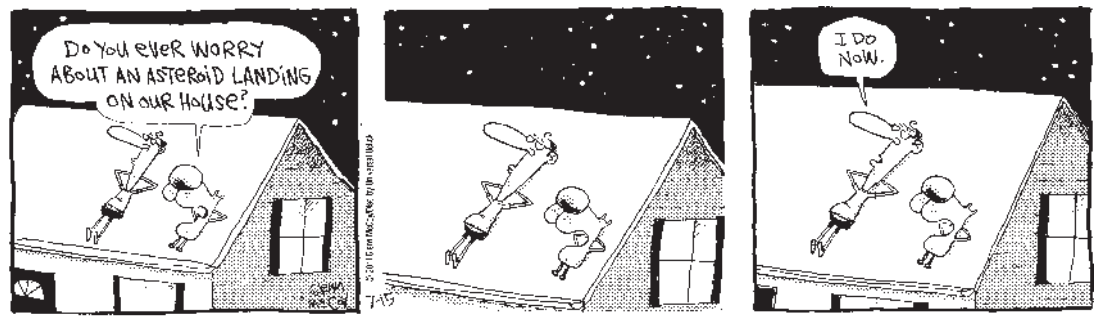
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WELCOME TO MUSKIE T. MOZZARELLA'S, WHERE FUN ISN'T A FOUR-LETTER WORD.
THAT'S AN ODD SAYING.
I NEED TO STAMP YOU ALL FOR SECURITY REASONS.
SO WHEN WE LEAVE YOU KNOW WE'RE ALL TOGETHER?
THAT'S RIGHT. IN FACT, M.T.M. INC. POLICY SAYS THAT WITHOUT THIS STAMP YOU CAN NEVER LEAVE MUSKIE T. MOZZARELLA'S.
GO AHEAD AND STAMP US THREE TIMES, OKAY?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Open a soda bottle
6 Performance
9 Bankroll
12 "— porridge hot"
13 Bill's partner
14 Kyoto cummerbund
15 Knapsack part
16 Desert crosser
18 Mini-program
20 Bygone VHS alternative
21 America's uncle
23 "Of course"
24 Lost cause
25 Neighborhood
27 Invited
29 Basement
31 Don of "Cocoon"
35 Bother
37 Go by 32-Down
38 Is able to, old-style
41 Actor Penn
43 Spinning stat
44 Out of control
45 Famed NYC apartment building
47 Rye seed
49 Break a Commandment
52 Yon bloke
53 "Hail!"
54 Sports venue
55 Type measures
56 Scarlet
57 Moderate purple

DOWN
1 Prosperous periods
2 Trawler need
3 Candy-apple cover
4 PDQ
5 Energetic
6 Get at
7 Paint layer
8 Anderson's "High —"
9 Made on a loom
10 Lessen
11 Money of Bahrain
17 Homes
19 Memorize
21 Pouch
22 Exist
24 Prized stone
26 Palin territory
28 Skin-covered canoe
30 Pismire
32 Three-masted vessel
33 With it
34 Shade provider
36 Accepted
38 Hidden stock
39 Forcefully
40 Standards
42 Making all the stops
45 Host Letterman
46 Actress Spelling
48 Sherman called it hell
50 Bambi's aunt
51 Tic-toe link

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	N	A	T	■	H	O	P	■	I	B	E	X
R	I	C	H	■	O	W	L	■	S	I	A	M
A	N	E	W	■	N	E	E	■	A	G	R	A
M	A	D	A	M	E	■	A	L	I	G	N	S
■	■	■	R	O	Y	■	■	O	A	R	■	■
D	E	B	T	■	B	I	G	W	H	E	E	L
A	L	I	■	■	U	N	O	■	■	E	T	A
B	I	G	B	A	N	D	S	■	K	N	O	X
■	■	A	R	P	■	S	U	N	■	■	■	■
D	E	P	A	R	T	■	E	R	A	S	E	R
A	M	P	S	■	A	L	L	■	V	O	T	E
M	I	L	S	■	L	E	I	■	E	L	A	N
P	R	E	Y	■	E	O	N	■	S	O	L	D

Yesterday's answer 7-15

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12					■	13			■	14		
15					■	16			17			
■	■	18			19			■	20			
21	22		■	23			■	24				
25			26	■	27		28			■	■	■
29				30		■	31			32	33	34
■	■	■	35			36		■	37			
38	39	40			■	41		42	■	43		
44				■	45				46		■	■
47				48			■	49			50	51
52			■	53				54				
55				56				57				

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brian Austin Green, 38; Forest Whitaker, 50; Terry O'Quinn, 59; Linda Ronstadt, 65.

Happy Birthday: You will feel much better if you make amends with someone with whom you have had a falling-out. Living in limbo does not suit you, and putting an end to one condition will allow you to finally move ahead with something new, exciting and worthwhile. Opportunities are within reach, but first you must let go of the past. Love is in the stars, and a new commitment can be made. Your numbers are 7, 13, 22, 29, 33, 35, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You have a lot to think about. A professional opportunity will be a direct result of a choice you make about your living arrangements, so check out all your options. Be clear about everything you do, and don't settle for less. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't ignore someone who is trying to get your attention. You may not want what's being offered, but the information you accumulate and the people you meet will be important at some point. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Push yourself when it comes to finding a way to supplement your income. A personal relationship is likely to restrict your freedom to excel. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Get involved with groups with which you have something in common. You have to be careful not to give in to demands being made by older or younger individuals in your life. Don't let the little things bother you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Overextending and overreacting will have to be controlled if you want to get ahead. You don't want to send the wrong message. Follow through with any promise you make. Pay back any favor you owe as quickly as possible. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Begin conversations that will allow you to explore avenues you might want to venture down at some point. Love is in the stars, and any involvement that encourages socializing will help your personal and romantic life. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Avoid any sort of aggressive behavior that has the potential to make you look bad. You must not let a personal problem interfere with your productivity or your professional status. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take advantage of any chance you get to travel or experience different lifestyles. It's time to expand your mind. Take on any challenge that comes your way with enthusiasm and you will be successful. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't restrict what you can and cannot do financially. An unusual conversation will encourage you to make domestic changes that will better support your goals. Don't let something you have done in the past stand in your way now. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will become indecisive if you listen to what everyone else thinks you should do. Make it clear that your actions must be based on how you feel and what you believe works best for you. Someone from your past will have an impact on you. Consider any ulterior motives that might be involved. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let emotional matters stop you from making a good financial or professional decision. You may end up being caught in formalities that appear to be a waste of time. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Getting involved in a group that offers a unique way of doing things will help you grow personally. Revisit old goals and decide if they are still important to you. Socializing will enhance your love life. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate and willing to help the underdog. You are expressive, serious-minded, impatient, impulsive and intelligent.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7		2			
		5		6		2		
1		8				6		3
3								9
	6						4	
7								5
5		6				3		4
		9		1		5		
			5		4			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	7	4	6	2	8	1	9	3
6	2	3	1	9	5	4	7	8
9	1	8	7	4	3	6	2	5
3	8	1	9	5	6	7	4	2
2	6	5	3	7	4	9	8	1
7	4	9	2	8	1	3	5	6
8	3	7	4	1	2	5	6	9
4	5	6	8	3	9	2	1	7
1	9	2	5	6	7	8	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FAVORITE DISHES Solution: 5 letters

P	D	O	O	F	D	E	C	I	P	S	M	M	P	I
U	E	M	O	S	I	E	T	F	N	L	E	I	H	Y
O	V	A	B	Z	E	S	N	A	R	A	A	S	L	E
S	R	E	N	A	A	L	C	O	T	I	U	T	G	K
R	E	R	A	O	C	K	B	B	S	S	E	A	E	R
E	S	C	R	L	M	O	A	A	T	A	S	S	D	U
G	F	E	E	B	D	L	N	N	T	U	E	T	A	T
R	I	C	E	E	L	D	A	A	A	E	R	S	L	S
U	L	I	K	S	W	R	N	S	H	E	G	Z	A	P
B	O	A	F	I	U	G	E	C	A	U	E	E	Ⓢ	A
M	B	I	C	A	A	T	S	T	K	D	N	Ⓝ	V	R
A	S	H	T	S	H	A	S	A	E	A	Ⓐ	G	I	W
H	T	S	A	N	U	T	A	S	T	Ⓔ	E	I	E	D
D	E	L	I	C	I	O	U	S	Ⓑ	R	W	T	R	R
R	R	C	E	U	C	E	B	R	A	B	S	S	S	Y

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Bacon, Baked, Barbecue, Beans, Beef, Bread, Cheese, Dairy, Delicious, Dine, Ethnic, Fish, Food, Fries, Hamburgers, Hunger, Ice Cream, Lasagna, Lobster, Meatballs, Milk, Plate, Restaurant, Rice, Roast, Salad, Salmon, Sandwich, Sauce, Sausage, Seasoned, Served, Snack, Some, Soup, Spiced, Steak, Stew, Sushi, Sweet, Taste, Treats, Turkey, Veal, Vegetables, Wraps

Yesterday's Answer: Culture

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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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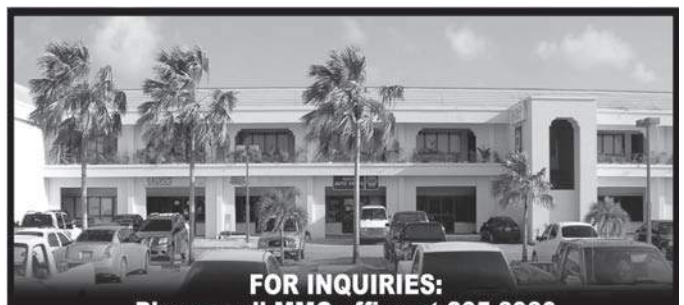
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, **Plaintiff,** **vs.** **JOHN D. DEL ROSARIO,** **Defendant.**	Civil Action No. 10-0244-CV **[AMENDED] NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT**

AMENDED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **August 9, 2011,** at **9:00 a.m.,** a hearing will be held before Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Court Room: 220A on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, *Guma Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 30th day of June, 2011.

/s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

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Saipan Tribune

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TREES TREES TREES TREES
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Find today's solution in this section

Wambach lifts US to World Cup finals

MOENCHENGLADBACH, Germany (AP)—Abby Wambach sure knows how to deliver.

A goal, a promise and soon, she hopes, a World Cup title.

The U.S. women had fans on edge once again until Wambach broke a tense tie with her header off a corner kick in the 79th minute Wednesday. Alex Morgan scored three minutes later to seal a 3-1 semifinal victory over France, and the Americans let loose with a party that carried all the way across the Atlantic Ocean.

Next up, a trip to the World Cup final Sunday in Frankfurt that will be the first for Americans since 1999, when they last won it all. They'll play Japan, which upset Sweden 3-1 to move one step away from realizing its own dream.

"We've achieved part of our goal. We're in the final," Wambach said. "We want to complete it. We want to be world champs."

So do their fans, new and old.

The Americans captivated the crowd back home with their epic, come-from-behind win over Brazil on Sunday, and a little thing called a workday wasn't going to deter them. Some fans skipped work—bars opened early for the noon EDT kickoff—while others sneaked peeks at the game in the office. At the Phoenix airport, dozens of fans crowded around TVs to watch the game.

When the final whistle blew, Hollywood celebrities, pro athletes and ordinary folks who didn't know a free kick from a corner kick just a few days ago flooded Twitter with congratulations. "My heroes. Wambach. Boxx. Rapinoe. Solo. That TEAM! Our team!" actor Tom Hanks tweeted. Super Bowl MVP Aaron Rodgers said, "Awesome job US Women, finish it off Sunday now."

AP

United States' Abby Wambach celebrates scoring her side's 2nd goal during the semifinal match between France and the United States at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Moenchengladbach, Germany, Wednesday, July 13, 2011.

Wambach and company were glad to share the moment.

"These wins, we can't do it alone. We know a whole nation is cheering us on," Wambach said. "We believe in ourselves and we're in the final. I couldn't be happier."

A little relieved, too.

France was the surprise of the tournament, making the semifinals with a creativity and flair that was breathtaking to behold. And for much of the game, the U.S. couldn't contain Les Bleues.

"We didn't play well today," U.S. coach Pia Sundhage said. "However, we find a way to win and that's a credit to the players' hearts. That's what makes it so wonderful to be coach of this team."

With the U.S. struggling to create opportunities in the middle, Sundhage replaced Carli Lloyd with sparkplug Megan Rapinoe early in the second half, moved Lauren Cheney inside and pulled Wambach back to the midfield.

The difference was noticeable immediately. The Americans were able to push forward and began threatening French goalkeeper Berangere Sapowicz.

Finally, in the 79th, the Americans won a corner kick.

"I told (Cheney) at halftime, 'Put the ball to the back post, and we're going to get a goal,'" Wambach said.

Cheney delivered the ball perfectly to the far post and, just as Wambach had predicted, she soared over the scrum and pushed the ball past Sapowicz.

"I knew Abby was going to beat her," Cheney said, referring to the French defender who practically mugged Wambach to try and contain her.

Asked how, Cheney said, "Because she's Abby Wambach."

Wambach let out a scream and did a sliding sprint into the corner, where she was mobbed by her teammates. It was her third goal of the tournament and 12th of her career, tying fellow American Michelle Akers for third on the all-time World Cup scoring list.

Morgan then put the game out of reach, outracing four defenders and then stutter-stepping in front of the goal, throwing Sapowicz off and leaving the American with a wide-open shot.

"The priority is not to accept another goal," France coach Bruno Bini said through a translator. "When that happens, you've had it. We conceded another goal and that was it for us."

Mia Hamm, Brandi Chastain, Julie Foudy and Co. got the rock-star treatment during the '99 World Cup, and every team since then has lived in their shadow. Part of the problem is no team's been able to duplicate that group's success. But nobody's been able to captivate the U.S. public like that golden group, either.

Until now.

"Nothing to take away from them because what they did was special. What they did gave us the opportunities all of us have here," Wambach said. "This generation is cool because we want to make a name for ourselves. We want the next generation to be ours."

Despite the loss, the World Cup was a resounding success for the French. In just their second World Cup appearance, they reached the semifinals and qualified for next summer's London Olympics.

"Do you know any coach who will tell you it's fantastic to lose?" Bini asked. "But we must give credit where credit is due."

The U.S. was staked to an early lead by Cheney's goal in the ninth minute. But with the silky smooth Louisa Necib calling the shots, France dominated for most of the game, finishing with a whopping 25-11 advantage in shots. The French missed two great chances in the first half, with goalkeeper Hope Solo having to tip a Gaetane Thiney shot away in the 30th and Sonia Bompastor rattling the crossbar two minutes later.

Finally, in the 55th, France got its equalizer. Bompastor floated in a cross from about 30 yards and, with the dangerous Gaetane Thiney right in front of her, Solo had little opportunity to move. The ball flew right past her.

But part of the blame goes to Becky Sauerbrunn, who was starting in place of the suspended Rachel Buehler and fell behind Thiney.

"I think (Thiney) got a step ahead of her," Solo said. "But I definitely expect our defenders, when the ball goes in the box, to get it out of there."

But just as they did Sunday against Brazil, the Americans got stronger and stronger as the game went on before Wambach —who scored a critical goal in the waning moments against the Brazilians—came through.

"In the end, we're in the finals," Wambach said, "and that's all that matters."

Contador hopes knee holds up in Pyrenees

LAVAUR, France (AP)—Defending Tour de France Alberto Contador wants to show his rivals he is still the world's best climber when the race hits the Pyrenees on Thursday. It just depends whether his troublesome right knee lets him.

The three-time champion has been bugged by a swelling in his right knee since he crashed on last week's fifth stage, and he banged the same knee again when falling of his bike on stage 9 last Sunday.

With two mammoth climbs up the Col du Tourmalet and an uphill finish to Luz-Ardiden awaiting him on Thursday's 12th stage, the Spaniard feels quietly confident his body will not let him down. It had better not, otherwise Andy Schleck and Cadel Evans, his main Tour rivals, will not hesitate to try to knock him out of contention.

Cruel, but that's the Tour. After all, Contador did not wait around when Schleck's chain came off last year.

"My knee is responding well so I'm obviously very happy," Contador said Wednesday's 11th stage. "But keep in mind that I didn't climb the Tourmalet today. I have to see how it responds and on that basis I will make a decision how to do the race on the last climb tomorrow."

British sprinter Mark Cavendish won Wednesday's 11th stage with a blistering late attack to clinch his third Tour stage win of the race, and Frenchman Thomas Voeckler kept hold of the race leader's yellow jersey for another day.

Evans is the best placed of the main Tour contenders and the Australian veteran currently leads Schleck by 11 seconds overall, and Contador by 1 minute, 41 seconds. Schleck, who lost last year's Tour to Contador by just 39 seconds, now leads him by 1:30.

But after Thursday's stage, those times could well be very different.

Contador's priority on Wednesday was more about staying on his saddle and letting the rain massage his sore knee on a 104.1-mile, flat and rainy route from Blaye-les-Mines to Lavaur.

"The knee did not bother me at any time today," a relieved Contador said. "The rain was actually soothing my knee today as it almost felt like ice."

Contador, however, knows there is nothing soothing about the Pyrenees.

Stage 12 is a 131.1-mile trek from Cugnaux to Luz-Ardiden and has three significant climbs which sprinters dread and climbers like Contador love.

First up is a category 1 climb up La Hourquette d'Ancizan, followed by the biggest ascent of the day—17.1 kilometers up Tourmalet at an average gradient of 7.3 percent. Exhausted riders then have an uphill finish to Luz-Ardiden.

Both Tourmalet and Luz-Ardiden are known as Hors Categorie climbs, or HC—so tough they do not have a classification.

With Evans and Contador fairly evenly matched in time trials, the onus is on Schleck to attack as he needs to gain more time on Contador and Evans to give himself a cushion when the crucial time trial comes later.

"At Luz-Ardiden, I think that everyone will be waiting," Contador said. "Someone has to open the race, especially the Schleck brothers."

Evans, the Tour runner-up in 2007 and '08, also expects attacks, although he would not say whether they would come from him.

"The first mountain stage always gives a pretty good indicator of who's a real contender for Paris," said Evans, who rides for the BMC team. "Someone has a bad day, someone has an extraordinarily good day. But it always gives some degree of an indicator."

Cavendish, meanwhile, nearly lost a shoe in the final stretch of Wednesday's stage, but kept his cool to beat Andre Greipel of Germany at the line to take the leading sprinter's green jersey.

The prolific Cavendish claimed the 18th Tour stage win of his career, crossing the line in 3 hours, 46 minutes, 7 seconds.

"It's incredible to have the green jersey. It's the most beautiful jersey in the world," Cavendish said.

Despite his impressive tally of stage wins, the coveted sprint champion's jersey has so far eluded Cavendish.

He was second last year behind Alessandro Petacchi of Italy, and second to two-time sprint champion Thor Hushovd in 2009. Cavendish pulled out before the Alpine stages in 2008 to save energy for the Olympics.

Voeckler, meanwhile, said he expects to lose his yellow jersey in the Pyrenees. But it remains to be seen if Contador tries to take it off him, or waits for his chance with two more massive Pyrenean stages to follow.

Friday's 13th stage features an HC trek up Col d'Aubisque, followed by a hair-raising 24.8-mile descent to the line.

Saturday's is harder than the previous two—an intense day featuring two nasty category 1 ascents up Col de la Core and Col d'Agnes, and finishing with a long HC climb up to Plateau de Beille.

Nowitzki, Mavs take big honors at ESPY Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dirk Nowitzki and his teammates were feeling so good, they broke out in another rendition of "We are the Champions."

It was definitely a fun night to be a member of the Dallas Mavericks.

Nowitzki picked up a pair of trophies, including male athlete of the year, and the Mavericks were chosen as the best team Wednesday night at the ESPY Awards.

Nowitzki also won best NBA player during ESPN's live telecast from the Nokia Theatre. Rick Carlisle was named best coach for leading the Mavericks to the NBA championship.

"I've got to tell you, any party where Dirk is singing 'We are the Champions' is just the best party ever," Dallas owner Mark Cuban told reporters of the Mavs' celebration in South Beach.

Nowitzki, who was the MVP of the NBA finals, is the first NBA player to be named top male athlete since Michael Jordan in 1993. Also nominated for the award were Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, five-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson and tennis star Rafael Nadal, who each won awards in other categories.

"This is humbling," said Nowitzki, who was talked into singing Queen's famous tune backstage. "I'm very honored to be up here tonight."

Olympic gold medalist Lindsey Vonn won female athlete of the year for the second year in a row. She is the first female to win the honor consecutive times since Annika Sorenstam in 2005-06. Vonn won in a group that included Connecticut basketball star Maya Moore, three-time WNBA MVP Lauren Jackson and Olympic snowboarder Kelly Clark.

Saturday Night Live comedian Seth Myers hosted the show for a second straight year. He opened the telecast by joking about the NFL and NBA lockouts before taking some digs at the Miami Heat. He then cracked some jokes about Brian Wilson's unique outfit choice.

The always eccentric Wilson would have won the award for best dressed athlete, had there been one. All eyes were on the San Francisco Giants closer as he walked down the red carpet in a full-body spandex tuxedo, complete with black high-tops and a cane.

"Justin Bieber could have set himself on fire and not have had a crazier outfit than Brian Wilson," Myers told reporters.

Fresh off leading the Bruins to their first Stanley Cup crown in 39 years, Boston goaltender Tim Thomas won for best championship performance and best NHL player.

AP

From left to right, Dallas Mavericks Shawn Marion, Jason Kidd, J.J. Barea, Brian Cardinal, Dirk Nowitzki and Tyson Chandler pose backstage at the ESPY awards on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, in Los Angeles.

"It's been a month, but it still really hasn't sunk in what it means to the city and whole New England area," Thomas said.

Philadelphia's Roy Halladay took home two awards. The Phillies ace won as the best MLB player and for best moment for his playoff no-hitter against the Cincinnati Reds.

Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin, who burst onto the scene in winning NBA Rookie of the Year, was chosen as breakthrough athlete. Griffin won the slam dunk competition at All-Star weekend by jumping over a Kia Optima to seal the crown.

Vonn professed to having "Bieber Fever" during her acceptance speech.

"Justin Bieber, will you take a picture of me for my Facebook page?" she asked the pop star as he sat in the audience.

The best play of the year happened just days ago and went to U.S. women's national team member Abby Wambach, who headed home the game-tying goal in Sunday's dramatic win over Brazil at the World Cup.

Myers and fellow SNL cast member Bill Hader poked fun at Nowitzki in spoofing the German's unorthodox shooting style late in the telecast. The skit centered around a fake Dirk Nowitzki Basketball Camp, featuring a tagline of "The uglier the shot, the more beautiful the result."

Jay Leno presented the Jimmy V Award for Perseverance to Anthony Robles, who also won for best male athlete with a disability. Robles was an NCAA wrestling champion despite being born with just one leg. He said his goal is to become a motivational speaker.

Dewey Bozella received the Arthur Ashe Courage award for his strength and conviction. Actor Kiefer Sutherland handed out the award to the boxer, who was imprisoned 26 years for a crime he didn't commit.

The year's best game went to the Eagles and Giants, in a contest that saw Philadelphia score 28 points in the final 7:18 to rally for a 38-31 win.

Super Bowl MVP Rodgers was honored as best NFL player and Serena Williams won for best female tennis player.

Deal to sell 76ers to Joshua Harris-led group done

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers have been sold to New York-based leveraged buyout specialist Joshua Harris, ending Comcast-Spectacor's 15-year run of ownership that included a trip to the NBA finals.

The tentative deal, which does not include ownership of their building, the Wells Fargo Center, must be approved by the NBA. Terms were not disclosed, but the deal Wednesday comes with the league in the midst of a lockout. The start of the 2011-12 season in October is in jeopardy.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to be affiliated with this storied franchise," Harris said in a statement. "As a basketball fan who attended college in Philadelphia, and with family roots here, I have always felt a strong connection to this City and the 76ers."

The new ownership also includes David Blitzer, a senior managing director of The Blackstone Group, along with other members of the investor group Art Wrubel and Jason Levien.

"We are excited to become associated with this iconic team and to have the chance to serve the great city of Philadelphia and its loyal basketball fans," Blitzer said.

The deal is expected to close later this year.

Comcast-Spectacor, led by chairman Ed Snider, purchased the Sixers from Harold Katz on April 24, 1996. Comcast-Spectacor also owns the NHL's Philadelphia Flyers.

Harris is one of three founders of Apollo Global Management, a publicly listed alternative investment manager. He leads a group that includes former NBA player agent and Sacramento Kings executive Jason Levien.

The 76ers were valued this year by Forbes at $330 million, 17th in the NBA, and have a TV deal with cable station Comcast SportsNet through 2029.

Harris co-founded Apollo Global Management in 1990. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and a master's degree from the Harvard Business School.

His group is purchasing a team that hasn't won a championship since 1983. Under Snider's ownership, the 76ers lost to the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2001 NBA finals.

The Sixers have won only one playoff series since 2001 and have been stuck in mediocrity for most of the last decade. They haven't had a winning record since 2004-05, but have made the playoffs three times since.

This past season, the Sixers won 41 games and stretched the Miami Heat to a five-game playoff series in Doug Collins' first season as coach.

"We look forward to helping the 76ers organization build on this past season's accomplishments in the years ahead," Harris said. "The ownership group also looks forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Comcast-Spectacor."

The Sixers routinely lag behind the Phillies, Eagles and Flyers in attendance and attention in a crowded Philadelphia market. From the first year the company owned both teams, Snider has fought the popular notion that he favored the Flyers over the Sixers. Snider founded the Flyers in the 1960s and led them to Stanley Cup championships in 1974 and 1975.

Under Snider, the Sixers drafted Allen Iverson No. 1 overall in 1996 and they hired coach Larry Brown in 1997. The pair, who had a tumultuous relationship, turned the franchise around and led them to their first playoff appearance in eight seasons in 1998-99. The trip to the finals came two years later. Brown quit in 2003 and Iverson was traded in 2006.

The Sixers are led now by team president Rod Thorn and general manager Ed Stefanski.

"I loved Ed Snider and I loved Ed Stefanski for everything they did for me," Iverson told The Associated Press last month. "I loved the organization because they made me a household name. Without them, there wouldn't be no Allen Iverson. As far as them moving forward, I wish them all of the best with all of my heart."

The Sixers have about $55 million in payroll committed to next season, led by Elton Brand's $17 million and Andre Iguodala's $13.5 million. The Sixers spent the summer in trade talks involving Iguodala—plans that have been put on hold because of the lockout.

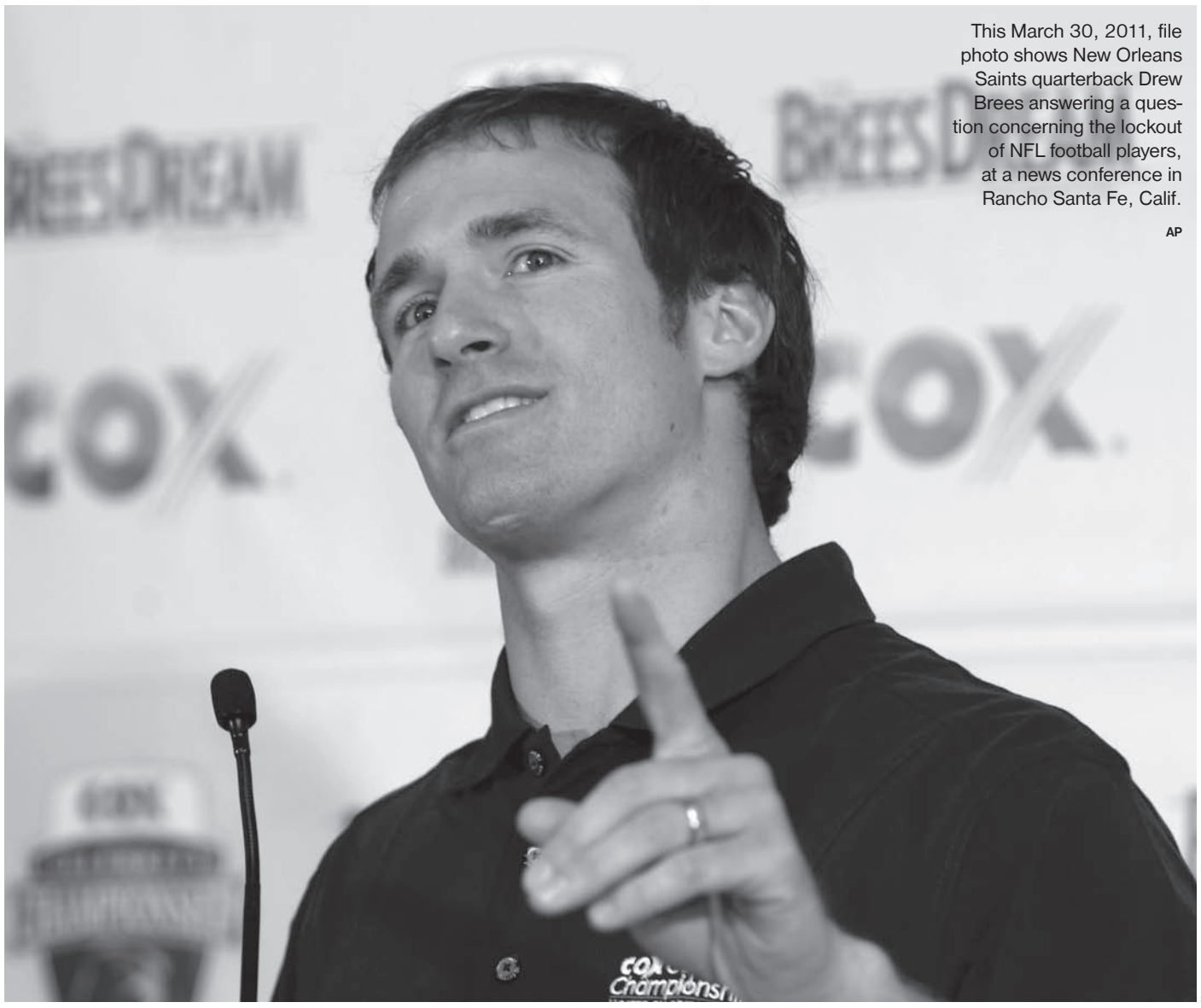
Thorn said before the draft that the potential sale of the franchise did not affect the way management approached trades and called running of the team "business as usual."

Thorn said he met with members of the new ownership group.

"They have questions about how we do things, why we do things, what we think of our personnel, what we think we need. Those type of information-type questions," Thorn said in June. "At this point, that's not being divulged as to exactly how they stand or how they will operate, because until they actually take over there isn't a lot to do about that or say about that."

The Sixers are about to find out.

Brady, P. Manning, Brees: It's time for NFL deal



This March 30, 2011, file photo shows New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees answering a question concerning the lockout of NFL football players, at a news conference in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

AP

NEW YORK (AP) —Calling the players' offer "fair for both sides," star quarterbacks Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees—plaintiffs in an antitrust suit against the NFL—said Wednesday "it is time" to wrap up negotiations on a deal to end the league's lockout.

At the bargaining table, though, it wasn't that easy.

On the day Brady, Manning and Brees spoke as a group publicly for the first time, players and owners spent nearly 11 hours meeting at a Manhattan law office.

About two hours after players' association chief DeMaurice Smith left, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell walked out with Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and the league's lead negotiator Jeff Pash at 10 p.m.

Other owners including Pittsburgh's Art Rooney and Carolina's Jerry Richardson departed around then, too.

Negotiations were scheduled to resume Thursday morning. With each passing day, the need to strike a bargain and end the first NFL work stoppage since 1987 becomes greater.

Deadlines are coming up next week to get training camps and the preseason started on time. Although it seems the sides have agreed on the basic elements of how to split more than $9 billion in annual revenues, among the key sticking points recently have been how to structure a new rookie salary system and what free agency will look like.

In a statement released to The Associated Press via the NFL Players Association, New England's Brady, Indianapolis' Manning and New Orleans' Brees said: "We believe the overall proposal made by the players is fair for both sides and it is time to get this deal done."

They continued: "This is the time of year we as players turn our attention to the game on the field. We hope the owners feel the same way."

In response, the NFL issued a statement saying: "We share the view that now is the time to reach an agreement so we can all get back to football and a full 2011 season. We are working hard with the players' negotiating team every day to complete an agreement as soon as possible."

Brady, Manning and Brees are among 10 players who are named plaintiffs in an antitrust suit that is pending in federal court in Minnesota. That class-action lawsuit was filed March 11, hours after federally mediated negotiations to arrive at a new collective bargaining agreement broke down, and the old labor contract expired. The NFLPA immediately dissolved itself, meaning players no longer were protected under labor law but instead were allowed to take their chances under antitrust law.

On March 12, the owners imposed a lockout on the players, a right management has to shut down a business when a CBA expires. During the lockout, there can be no communication between the teams and current NFL players; no players—including those drafted in April—can be signed; teams won't pay for players' health insurance.

A series of court rulings followed, including one last week from an appeals court that said the lockout could continue.

Talks gained steam in May, overseen by a court-appointed mediator, U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan, who is on vacation this week. Boylan ordered both sides to speak with him in Minneapolis next Tuesday, and the owners have a special meeting set for July 21 in Atlanta, where they could vote to ratify a new deal if one is reached.

That means there's intense pressure on Smith and Goodell to keep things moving in a positive direction. Disruptions to the planned preseason schedule would decrease the overall revenue pie.

In an added complication, a federal judge has set an Aug. 8 hearing for NFL retirees, who claimed Wednesday that the league and NFLPA "have conspired" to set low retiree benefit and pension payments in the negotiations. The retirees also say they have been illegally and intentionally excluded from the talks.

Smith and Goodell were joined at Wednesday's meeting by a half-dozen team owners: Jones, Rooney, Richardson, Robert Kraft of the New England Patriots, John Mara of the New York Giants and Clark Hunt of the Kansas City Chiefs.

On the players' side were Jeff Saturday of the Indianapolis Colts and Tyson Clabo of the Atlanta Falcons.

Needles have Clemens DNA, steroids; fakery claimed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Prosecutors said Wednesday that needles and cotton balls Roger Clemens' former trainer says he used to inject the star pitcher tested positive for Clemens' DNA and anabolic steroids—evidence the defense said was faked.

Assistant U.S. attorney Steven Durham revealed the results during opening arguments in Clemens' trial on charges of lying to Congress about using performance-enhancing drugs. Clemens' attorney Rusty Hardin responded that he won't dispute the needles contain Clemens' DNA and steroids, but accused the trainer Brian McNamee of "mixing" it up.

"He manufactured this stuff," Hardin told jurors. "Roger Clemens' only crime was having the poor judgment to stay connected with Brian McNamee."

Hardin said steroids would have been so "incredibly inconsistent with his career and beliefs that there's no way he would have done it."

Clemens has said that the only things McNamee ever injected him with were the common local anesthetic lidocaine for his joints and vitamin B-12 to ward off flu viruses and stay healthy. But Durham said neither substance was found on the needles or cotton swabbed with his blood stains.

Hardin told the jury that the government is "horribly wrong" in charging his client with perjury, false statements and obstruction of Congress. Clad in a dark suit, Clemens watched silently from the defense table with a clenched jaw.

"There was a rush to judgment on Roger that has made it impossible for him to be fairly heard until he got here," Hardin said in the federal courthouse just a couple blocks from the congressional hearing room where he testified three years ago.

"It's a fact of life that sometimes when people reach the mountain, there is an unwillingness to give them equal consideration when people come down on them," Hardin said. "And that's what happened with Roger."

Hardin showed the jury an enlarged photo of the country with all the sites where federal agents investigated the case. He said it involved 103 law enforcement officers, five attorneys, 229 investigation reports and 72 investigation locations across the continental United States, Germany and Puerto Rico.

"They still didn't find anything to connect him with steroids except Brian McNamee," Hardin said.

Durham, however, said that about 45 witnesses, including several of Clemens' former teammates, will help make the case that Clemens used anabolic steroids and human growth hormone. When Clemens denied the use under oath before a House panel in 2008, Durham said, "It was false and he knew it was false."

Hardin argued that the government's case essentially rises and falls with McNamee, who the lawyer said has lied repeatedly. "He's still lying," Hardin said.

Hardin also said that McNamee lied in a police investigation in Florida in 2001. The trainer was investigated for sexual assault, but Walton had previously instructed Hardin not to discuss specifics of that probe in front of the jury.

Hardin tried to fight the perception that Clemens arrogantly insisted on testifying before Congress to protect his legacy and thus put himself in this criminal position. He was not subpoenaed to testify and Hardin says it was "technically true that he voluntarily appeared" though under tremendous pressure.

"Roger Clemens, unless he was comatose, always knew the danger of him testifying," Hardin said, pointing out that fellow Major League Baseball player Miguel Tejada was charged with misleading Congress for earlier testimony.

"Did he (Clemens) do it out of arrogance and wanting to go to the Hall of Fame?" Hardin said. "Really? To get into the Hall of Fame? Really? Is that what we've come to?"

Hardin showed a photo of the crush of photographers around the witness table as Clemens came into the House hearing room and called it a "scene." Then he showed video of Clemens telling lawmakers that he thinks steroids are wrong and detrimental, but "no matter what we discuss here today, I'm never going to have my named restored."

Hardin objected during Durham's opening argument when the prosecutor told jurors that Clemens teammates Andy Pettitte, Chuck Knoblauch and Mike Stanton will testify they used performance-enhancing drugs to recover from injuries and because the pressure to perform was so high in Major League Baseball.

Walton has expressed concern in pretrial hearings that kind of testimony could lead jurors to consider Clemens guilty by association, and the judge told jurors to disregard Durham's comments about other players.

Durham said aging baseball players took performance-enhancing drugs to try to keep their jobs in a competitive industry.

"Every year younger players come into the league, and they want to take the jobs of older players," Durham said

Hardin went over Clemens' many achievements, including a record seven Cy Young Awards given annually to the best pitcher in the league, and argued that he was great before and after McNamee says he injected him with drugs from 1998 to 2001.

"Roger Clemens has a right to be hurt and mad," Hardin said. "He was totally betrayed by a worker he considered a friend."

Hardin said hard work was responsible for Clemens' longevity. He said Clemens was not a natural athlete and while his high school buddies were partying on Friday nights, he was working out.

Durham showed a photo of the yellowing cotton balls, needles and vials turned over by McNamee, who the prosecutor described as "a man that was hand chosen by Mr. Clemens to train him." He said the evidence was tested by two California labs —one that found Clemens' DNA on the needle and cotton and another that tested them for drugs.

Manny's my guy, says Kobe Bryant

BOXING

MANILA— Still, Kobe Bryant answered it, to the delight of an obviously biased crowd of journalists.

In a fight between Manny Pacquiao and undefeated American Floyd Mayweather, the Black Mamba will root for the Pacman.

"Manny's my guy," said Bryant during a press conference for the Nike Kobe Manila Tour 2011 at the Manila Peninsula.

"I love his tenacity, I love everything about him. Manny's a friend."

When Kobe also picked Pacquiao during the Saranggani congressman's bout with Miguel Cotto in 2009, he said: "[T]hat's not even a question. Manny Pacquiao all the way."

Pacquiao, who won that bout to annex a historic seventh weight crown, is slated to face Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez in November.

Mayweather, on the other hand, is set to fight Victor Ortiz in September.

Negotiations for a Pacquiao-Mayweather bout—possibly the highest-grossing match in boxing history—collapsed several times before due to differences in drug-testing protocols.

Pacquiao adheres to the system already in place in boxing while Mayweather wants strict Olympic-style tests.

Pacquiao and Bryant are both Nike endorsers and have appeared in a commercial together. ***(PDI)***

The Philippines' Manny Pacquiao is seen in this file photo celebrating his win over Joshua Clottey in Dallas, Texas in March this year. AP

SGA, RGA July Ace tournaments Sunday

Both the Saipan Golfers Association and Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding their July Ace tournaments this Sunday.

SGA will host this month's competition at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Check-in time is at 9am, while tee off is at 10:30am.

Over at Coral Ocean Point, RGA will have its July Ace tournament with check-in and tee times set for 11am and 12pm, respectively.

The score to beat for RGA's tournament is net 70, which Tars Olopai recorded during the club's July Ace qualifier.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Olopai at 483-5508, Tony Rogolifoi at 288-3515, and Jess Wabol at 288-1129.

For SGA, contact Larry Guerrero at 287-1052 or Joe Sablan at 287-4563. ***(PR)***

DOCOMO

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Budweiser Cup.

The Budweiser Cup will have two divisions—the masters for 40-and-above and the junior category for players in the 21 to 39 age group. Only the registration for the masters division is open. Six teams have already registered in the masters and only two more slots are available, while the junior division has 12 squads.

The Budweiser Cup will open shop on July 31, also at the TSL Sports Complex. Registration deadline is set for July 25 and entrance fee is $500 per team, exclusive of uniforms.

Meeting tonight

Coaches or representatives of participating teams in all divisions are asked to attend a meeting tonight at 6pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Details about the opening and other concerns related to the league will be discussed at the meeting. Coaches or team representatives are also requested to bring a copy of their respective rosters.

For more information about the UFO caging, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525 or bong@malasarte.com or Wilfredo Ching at 287-6046 or boyching@pticom.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

PARTY

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Wednesday's opening match started with both teams hitting a triple. Elilai Pialug put the Lazy Buttsss in the scoreboard with her trey, while Pagarao answered with her own shot from downtown. Pagarao went on to score 10 more points, giving Mix-A-Lot a 17-14 halftime lead.

The former Marianas High School standout continued burning the hoops in the second half to foil Lazy Buttsss' bid to enter the win column.

First Game

Mix-A-Lot 46 – Pagarao 32, Mesa 6, Hofschneider 6, Iriarte 2.

Lazy Buttsss 36 – Palero 13, Pialug 10, Javier 8, Rios 5.

Scoring by halves: 17-14, 46-36.

Second Game

Party Rockers 64 – Castillo 27, Abrams 20, Lebria 8, Gozon 4, Johnson 3.

Aye Par Battay 50 – Williams 21, M. Ito 12, Castillo 8, Palero 5, Arboliras 2, K. Ito 2.

Scoring by halves: 30-32, 64-50.

CNMI

From Page 36

to shake hands with the CNMI sluggers in concession, but were called back by their manager in the last second. At that time, organizers declared the game will be moved to the other field and will continue once Australia and New Zealand of Pool A completed their match.

"At first we thought we won by decision, but then they moved the game to the other field. I thought the extra rest might help us, but it may have just killed our momentum," CNMI manager Chel Castro said.

"I'm in disbelief," CNMI coach Randall Aguon added.

It was questionable whether the 30-minute time rule was honored or not, but regardless, the CNMI coaching staff agreed to wait and continue the game. In retrospect, the CNMI may never have had to agree to a second postponement, since the match was already rained out last Wednesday. Guam and the CNMI played only in the top of the first inning last Wednesday with the latter shutting out the host. Organizers ordered a restart of the do-or-die match yesterday and the CNMI got off to a good start before rain prevented the visitors from completing the crucial win.

When the game resumed at the top of the sixth inning, Guam scored four runs, while the CNMI went cold, allowing the host to extend the game and eventually steal the win.

Guam played back-to-back games yesterday and lost to Pool A top finisher Chinese-Taipei in the semifinals, 2-12. Pool B top place Korea played Thailand in the other semis pairing and was ahead in the third inning, 4-0, before the game was suspended due to rain. The match will resume this morning at 8:30am with the winner facing Chinese-Taipei in the finals later in the afternoon.

Thailand earned a free ride to the semifinals after New Zealand defeated Australia, 7-5, in the other make-or-break match yesterday.

The CNMI entered yesterday's game against Guam with a 1-2 record and must win the match to make it to the next round.

Guam left runners at first and second to start the important match, but forced the CNMI to 1-2-3- in the bottom half. Then after another scoreless inning, the CNMI took a 3-0 lead in the third.

With one out, Cedric Camacho reached of a fielder's choice and moved to third base off a double by Jonathan Camacho. Rokie Tenorio came up next and ripped a base clearing triple down the third baseline. He scored off an errant throw.

After the damage, Guam's Carl Jamarila replaced Magahali Salas on the mound.

CNMI pitcher Nathan Camacho struck out the side in the top half of the fourth, but the visitors also came up empty in the bottom frame.

Guam remained silent in the fifth and the CNMI added a run in the bottom half of the inning. Franco Nakamura busted a base hit and came all the way around off errors, but the CNMI left two runners on base.

At this point, rain stalled the action, but Guam's top of the order came alive in its long awaited last stand and tied the game at 4-all, off four hits.

Jacob Concepcion drew a leadoff walk and moved to third off a double by Aaron Pangelinan. Then cleanup man Xavier Reyes stepped in and blasted a clutch three-run homer over the right centerfield fence.

Guam's Jamanila kept it rolling with a single, and an out later, Nonea Blas tied the game with a double.

With two outs, the CNMI's Cedric Camacho came to the mound for the maxed-out Nathan Camacho, hoping to stop the bleeding. However, the CNMI drew a blank in the bottom frame, but kept Guam at bay at the top of the eighth.

Jonathan Camacho came to the mound early in the inning after the first two batters reached base. He served up a nice double play dribbler to his first man.

CNMI's bats remained cold in the bottom frame and the momentum started to visibly shift over to the host team.

Guam surged ahead, 8-4, in the top of the ninth off four more hits from the thick of its order.

Jared Samoca led off with a base hit and moved into scoring position off another single by Pangelinan. Reyes then drove in Samoca with a base-poke that setup a three-run jack by Jamanila deep over the left centerfield fence.

The CNMI managed a runner at third base in its last stand, but could not muster up a rally.

Guam's Reyes batted 2-for-4 with a home run for three RBIs and a run with a hit-by-pitch. Jamanila hit 2-for-4 with a home run for threes RBIs and a run with a base on balls and Pangelinan went 3-for-5 with two runs.

Jamanila went on to finish the game after CNMI broke the ice in the third frame, allowing just one unearned run off four hits and a walk with seven strikeouts in six and one-third innings.

KIMBALL

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for Shanghai, China next week to participate in the 14th FINA World Championships, which will run from July 16 to 31. The two others are Kimball's teammate, Victoria Chentsova, and Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center and World Championship veteran Rezne Wong.

In China, Kimball will be competing in the 50m and 100m freestyle races.

"I am hoping to drop times in my events and figure out some new techniques by watching world champion swimmers," the daughter of Dan and Lisa Kimball said.

The SSC swimmer's best time in the 50m freestyle is 30.64 seconds. Nina Mosley owns both the CNMI 15 to 16 age group marks in the 50m freestyle 28.08 seconds (June 28, 2006). In the 100m freestyle, Kimball's personal best is 1:08.09. Mosley also holds the CNMI and age group marks in the 100m freestyle (1:01.25).

The World Championship will be Kimball's biggest tournament so far after representing the CNMI to the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau and she is thankful for the opportunity to swim for the Commonwealth anew.

"I'm really excited to be able to compete in such a high-level competition as the World Championships. It's also a big responsibility to represent the CNMI again," Kimball said.

The selection of the three CNMI swimmers was made only in May, but since the beginning of the year, Kimball has been training for future competitions.

"I have been training six days a week, for two to three hours each day for the whole year. Our coaches have been preparing us specifically for this swim meet since the end of May, and have worked hard to make sure we are ready to swim our best. I am swimming sprint events so I have been focusing on speed and on maintaining my speed over the entire distance of a race," the 2010 Micronesian Games gold medalist said.

"I am dedicating this swim meet, like all of my other swim meets, to God, because He is the one who made me and gave me the ability to swim and compete. When I swim, I do my best to swim for Him. I would especially like to thank my parents and my coaches for helping me prepare for this swim meet. They have done a lot of work to make sure that everything happens," Kimball added.

MIEKO

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"I will also have some members of my family cheering for me in Japan and that will give me a lot of energy during the race," added Carey, who thanked Taga, Inc., Asiana, Marianas Visitors Authority, Brabu, and IT&E for supporting her Kaike trip.

The 33-year-old triathlete had her best finish in Kaike last year when she placed third in the women's division and 43rd overall among 850 finishers. She completed the 3-kilometer swim, 145-km bike, and a 42.195-km full marathon race in nine hours, 56 minutes, and 38 seconds. In 2009, Carey had a faster time at 8:22:35, but she finished 62nd out of 821 participants.

The Kaike event will be Carey' second long race in less than two months after joining the grueling 2011 Ironman Kansas 70.3 in Lawrence on June 12. She completed the Kansas race in pain and it took a few weeks before she resumed training for Kaike. A week before the Kansas event, she was in Japan for the 2011 JCF Mountain Bike Japan Series 2 in Nagano. Carey is using the series of races this summer to prepare for the 2011 XTERRA World Championships, which will be held in Hawaii in October.

Party Rockers regain solo lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Party Rockers reclaimed the solo lead in the 2011 BANMI Women's Summer Basketball League after beating Aye Par Battay, 64-50, Wednesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Before the second match of the day, Party Rockers and Aye Par Battay shared the No. 1 spot in the team standings with their identical 3-1 records. Then the deadlock was broken when Party Rockers played better in the second half en route to a 14-point win.

The victory was Party Rockers' second against Aye Par Battay as the former posted a 53-44 triumph in their first round meeting on July 5.

The second encounter between Party Rockers and Aye Par Battay was a close fight in the first half, as only one basket separated the two teams, 32-30. Lily Williams gave Aye Par Battay a two-point lead when she scored 15 points in the first half, including seven of the team's last eight points in that period. Mae Angelie Ito also helped Aye Par Battay in the first half when she started the game with six straight markers and finished with 10.

In the second half, Aye Par Battay could not hang on to the driver's seat, as it failed to neutralize Rachel Abrams and Jeraldine Castillo. Castillo exploded for 14 points in the second half, making two triples in that canto and drilling 11 of Party Rockers' last 13 markers. Abrams, who had 12 points in the first half, added eight in the second half to help in Party Rockers' break away.

Ito was held to only one field goal in the second half, while Williams made only two baskets and two charities. Williams and Jeralyn Castillo were the only two Aye Par Battay to nail more than two field goals for Aye Par Battay in the final frame.

With Party Rockers finding their mark in the second half, they outgunned Aye Par Battay, 34-18.

Jeraldine Castillo led all scorers with 27 points, while Abrams chipped in 20. Williams paced Aye Par Battay with her 21 markers, while Ito contributed 12.

In the first game, Mix-A-Lot downed the Lazy Buttsss, 46-36.

Lalaine Pagarao carried the load for Mix-A-Lot, as she sizzled for 32 points. Mix-A-Lot improved to a 3-2 record, tying Aye Par Battay for second place.

The Lazy Buttsss remained winless in five games.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Party Rockers' Kaylani Lebria is seen here challenging the defense of Mix-A-Lot players during their game in the BANMI women's league at the TSL Sports Complex. Party Rockets played on Wednesday night and won against Aye Par Battay and the Lazy Buttsss, respectively.

Docomo, MARPAC sponsor UFO caging

United Filipino Organization's basketball competition this season has drawn the support of MARPAC and NTT Docomo Pacific.

Docomo will be the main sponsor for the association's youth caging, which is dubbed as the UFO Inter-Organization Youth Basketball League 2011/ Docomo Pacific Cup.

The youth league is open for players in the U20 age group and UFO is still accepting interested teams. So far, the youth caging has lured three teams and slots are open for three more squads.

Deadline for registration is Aug. 5 and the league will kick off on Aug. 14 at the TSL Sports Complex. Entrance fee is only $350. Rosters and filled-up waivers must be turned over on or before Aug. 5.

Meanwhile, Budweiser will be sponsoring the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League 2011, which is also known as the

See DOCOMO on Page 34

MAFEA-Konflikt's Brandon Talania goes for a layup against Cavite's J.R. Barrios during their game in last year's UFO caging at the JP Center Basketball Court. Konflikt will be defending its title against 11 other teams in the 2011 season of the UFO caging.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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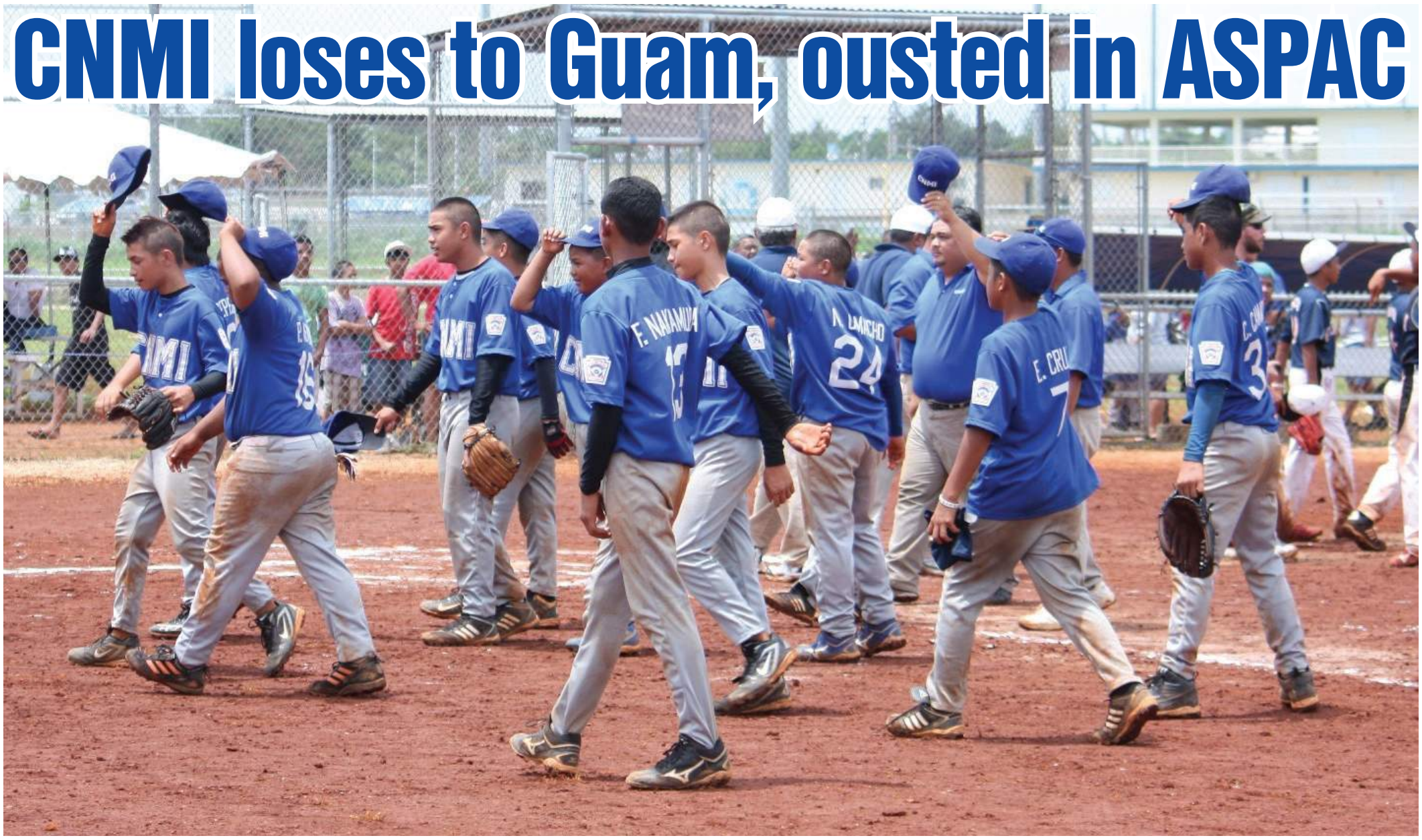
CNMI loses to Guam, ousted in ASPAC



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The CNMI All-Stars tip their hats to the crowd after losing to Guam yesterday in the 2011 Asia-Pacific Major Division Regional Championship at the Northern Region Sports Complex in Dededo.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

GUAM—The CNMI All-Stars were three outs away from advancing to the semifinals of the 2011 Asia-Pacific Major Division Regional Championship, but collapsed in the end and lost to Guam, 4-8, yesterday at the Northern Region Sports Complex in Dededo.

The CNMI was ahead, 4-0, going into the top of the sixth inning when rain halted play with Guam waiting to bat.

By rule, tournament organizers are required to decide over a rained-out game within 30 minutes of the initial stoppage. After staying at their dugout, Guam players came back at the field

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Kimball reaches long-term goal

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Kimball, seen here competing in the 50m butterfly race in the 2011 SSC Invitational Swim Meet last February, will be representing the CNMI to the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai, China.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Grace Kimball set a long-term goal and hit it when she was selected to compete in the 14th FINA World Championships.

"I can still remember seeing older kids go to the World Championships. At one point probably four or five years ago, our coach asked all the swimmers to write down our short-term and long-term goals. My long-term goal was to swim in the World Championships. It is amazing to realize that I am actually going to the long-course World Championships and reaching my goal," Kimball said.

The 15-year-old SSC member is one of the three CNMI swimmers who will

See KIMBALL on Page 34

Mieko has another mission in Kaike

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mieko Carey left Saipan last night to compete in the 31st Annual Annual Kaike Triathlon Championships and will be aiming for another goal besides finishing the race in Japan.

"I hope to bring more people from Japan for the 2012 Tagaman Triathlon," Carey said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* a few hours before she left for Japan.

Carey finished second overall in the women's division of the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon to earn an invitation to the Kaike Triathlon. For the past several years, Taga, Inc., organizer of Tagaman Triathlon, has been working together with Kaike organizers to bring Saipan triathletes to Kaike and vice versa. Last year, Carey went to Kaike with Tinian triathlete Joshua Manglona.

This year's Kaike Triathlon will take place this Sunday at Japan's Tottori Prefecture and it will be Carey's third appearance in the annual event.

"I am ready to race. I will be going to Japan alone, but I know people from Saipan will cheer for me. I will do my best to represent the CNMI," Carey said.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mieko Carey, seen here heading to the swim-bike transition area in the triathlon competition in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, left for Japan last night to join the Kaike Triathlon.